







**THE HISTORICAL RECORD**  
**OF THE**  
**IMPERIAL VISIT TO INDIA**  
**1911**









*Their Imperial Majesties The King-Emperor and Queen-Empress*





# THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE IMPERIAL VISIT TO INDIA.

1911

COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS UNDER THE  
ORDERS OF THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF INDIA

PUBLISHED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BY  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON, W.

1914

PRINTED BY  
HAZELL, WATSON AND VINEY, LD.  
LONDON AND AYLESBURY.

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. A RETROSPECT . . . . .	3
II. THEIR MAJESTIES' VOYAGE . . . . .	22
III. THE GATEWAY OF INDIA . . . . .	35
IV. DELHI . . . . .	52
V. THE STATE ENTRY . . . . .	60
VI. THE IMPERIAL ENCAMPMENT . . . . .	94
VII. THE PRINCES OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE . . . . .	124
VIII. THE CORONATION DURBAR . . . . .	144
IX. THE REJOICINGS OF THE PEOPLE . . . . .	178
X. THE EMPEROR AND HIS ARMY . . . . .	191
XI. IN CAMP AT DELHI . . . . .	204
XII. NEPAL AND RAJPUTANA . . . . .	228
XIII. CALCUTTA . . . . .	245
XIV. THEIR MAJESTIES' RETURN . . . . .	267
APPENDICES . . . . .	283
INDEX OF NAMES . . . . .	421
GENERAL INDEX . . . . .	433





# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## COLOURED

THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES THE KING-EMPEROR AND QUEEN-EMPRESS . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
THE IMPERIAL CROWN WORN AT DELHI . . . . .	FACING PAGE 16
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES LANDING AT BOMBAY . . . . .	40
TYPES OF IMPERIAL SERVICE CAVALRY . . . . .	77
TYPES OF IMPERIAL SERVICE INFANTRY . . . . .	126
THE DELHI THRONES . . . . .	148
THE CHANDOA FOR SHAMIANA . . . . .	164
THE INVESTITURE . . . . .	220
From a painting by G. P. Jacomb Hood, M.V.O., by kind permission of H.H. the Maharaja of Bikaner	
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES PROCEEDING ALONG THE RED ROAD, CALCUTTA . . . . .	248

## PHOTOGRAVURES

HIS EXCELLENCY BARON HARDINGE OF PENSHURST, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA . . . . .	6
HER EXCELLENCY LADY HARDINGE OF PENSHURST, C.I. . . . .	18

## BLACK AND WHITE

H.M.S. MEDINA . . . . .	24
MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE	
HIS HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF TECK, THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DURHAM, THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF CREWE, THE LORD ANNALY, THE RIGHT HON. LORD STAMFORDHAM . . . . .	25
COMMANDER SIR C. CUST, BART., CAPTAIN B. GODFREY-FAUSSETT, THE HON. SIR DEREK KEPPEL, MAJOR THE LORD CHARLES FITZMAURICE, MAJOR CLIVE WIGRAM . . . . .	26
MR. F. H. LUCAS, GENERAL SIR H. L. SMITH-DORRIEN, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR R. HAVELOCK CHARLES, THE HON. JOHN FORTESCUE, MR. G. P. JACOMB HOOD . . . . .	27
HIS HIGHNESS THE SULTAN OF LAHEJ, K.C.S.I. . . . .	28
HIS HIGHNESS THE SULTAN OF SHEHR AND MOKALLA . . . . .	29
THE FADTHLI SULTAN . . . . .	32
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT ADEN . . . . .	33
MEMBERS OF HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE	
HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE, THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, THE COUNTESS OF SHAFTESBURY, MAJOR-GENERAL SIR STUART BEATSON, THE HON. VENETIA BARING, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. D. WATSON . . . . .	36
HIGH OFFICIALS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS, BOMBAY	
THE HON. SIR BASIL SCOTT, SIR PHEROZESHAH MEHTA, HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE SYDENHAM CLARKE, SIR SHAPURJI BURJORJI BROACHA, SIR R. A. LAMB . . . . .	37
THE RECEPTION AMPHITHEATRE, BOMBAY . . . . .	p. 39

	FACING PAGE
THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT BOMBAY: THE PRESENTATION OF SIR P. MEHTA . . . . .	42
THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT BOMBAY: HIS MAJESTY REPLYING . . . . .	42
ONE OF THE BOMBAY THRONES . . . . .	43
THE BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CASKET . . . . .	48
THE COTTON ARCH AT BOMBAY . . . . .	48
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES ON THE TRAIN . . . . .	49
THE QUEEN-EMPRESS'S SALOON . . . . .	49
MEMBERS OF THE DURBAR COMMITTEE	
THE HON. SIR TREVREDYN WYNNE, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL F. MAXWELL, THE HON. SIR JOHN HEWETT, BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. V. COX, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. M. DALLAS . . . . .	56
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. F. MURRAY, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. J. BAMBER, MR. W. M. HAILEY, COLONEL R. S. MACLAGAN, MR. V. GABRIEL . . . . .	57
THE REHEARSAL OF THE STATE ENTRY: PASSING THE JAMA MASJID . . . . .	64
AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING-EMPEROR, DECEMBER 7TH, 1911 . . . . .	65
THE STATE ENTRY: HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY AT SALIMGARH . . . . .	66
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WITH THE VETERANS AT SALIMGARH . . . . .	66
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES LEAVING SALIMGARH . . . . .	67
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES ENTERING THE FORT FROM SALIMGARH . . . . .	67
MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S COUNCIL	
THE HON. SIR J. L. JENKINS, THE HON. SIR G. F. WILSON, THE HON. SIR S. H. BUTLER, THE HON. SIR R. W. CARLYLE . . . . .	70
THE HON. SYED ALI IMAM, THE HON. MR. W. H. CLARK, HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL SIR O'MOORE CREAGH . . . . .	71
THE STATE ENTRY: HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY PASSING OUT OF THE FORT . . . . .	74
THE RULING CHIEFS' PAVILION IN THE FORT . . . . .	75
CHIEF'S ESCORT IN MAIL ARMOUR . . . . .	75
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARANA OF UDAIPUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	78
MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE	
CAPTAIN R. E. T. HOGG, MAJOR H. R. STOCKLEY, MAJOR E. D. MONEY, COLONEL NAWAB SIR MUHAMMAD ASLAM KHAN, COLONEL NAWAB SIR MUHAMMAD ABDULLA KHAN . . . . .	79
MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR PRATAP SINGH OF JODHPUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., A.D.C. . . . .	80
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WITH THE IMPERIAL CADET CORPS . . . . .	81
THE DELHI HERALD . . . . .	84
THE ASSISTANT DELHI HERALD . . . . .	84
THE HERALDS AND STATE TRUMPETERS . . . . .	85
MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE	
THE VISCOUNT HARDINGE, BRIGADIER-GENERAL W. R. BIRDWOOD, BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. D'U. KEARY, COLONEL H. E. STANTON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. BIRD, COLONEL F. GOODWIN . . . . .	86
REAR-ADMIRAL SIR COLIN KEPPEL, SIR E. HENRY, THE HON. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR A. H. MAC- MAHON, BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR R. E. GRIMSTON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR J. DUNLOP SMITH . . . . .	87
THE KING-EMPEROR REPLYING TO THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE RIDGE . . . . .	90
THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE RIDGE . . . . .	91
TWO VIEWS OF THE CAMP AREA BEFORE OCCUPATION . . . . .	102
THE CAMPS BY NIGHT, DELHI . . . . .	104
THE KING-EMPEROR'S CAMP, DELHI . . . . .	104
THE BURMA CAMP . . . . .	108
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM CAMP . . . . .	108
THE CAMP BY THE LAKESIDE . . . . .	109
THE BOMBAY ARCH ON KINGSWAY . . . . .	109
THE RULING CHIEFS' CAMPS, CORONATION ROAD . . . . .	110
AN ENTRANCE ARCHWAY IN THE CAMP . . . . .	110

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ix

	FACING PAGE
AN ARCH ON PRINCE'S ROAD AT DELHI . . . . .	111
THE ENTRANCE TO THE KASHMIR CAMP . . . . .	111
GOVERNORS AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS	
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR T. G. CARMICHAEL, THE HON. SIR LOUIS DANE, THE HON. SIR CHARLES BAYLEY, THE HON. MR. L. PORTER, THE HON. SIR R. CRADDOCK, THE HON. SIR HARVEY ADAMSON . . . . .	114
HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT	
THE HON. MR. M. F. O'DWYER, THE HON. SIR E. COLVIN, THE HON. SIR HUGH DALY, THE HON. SIR G. ROOS KEPPEL, THE HON. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. PINHEY, THE HON. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. RAMSAY . . . . .	115
HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD, G.C.S.I. . . . .	116
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA GAIKWAR OF BARODA, G.C.S.I. . . . .	117
A ROADWAY IN THE CAMP . . . . .	118
THE SIKKIM CAMP . . . . .	119
THE SHAN CHIEFS . . . . .	119
COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE, G.C.S.I. . . . .	120
MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	121
COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF BIKANER, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., A.D.C. . . . .	124
MAJOR HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF KISHANGARH, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. . . . .	125
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAWAL OF JAISALMER . . . . .	128
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF ALWAR, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. . . . .	129
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJ RANA OF DHOLPUR . . . . .	130
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAO OF SIROHI, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I. . . . .	131
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAWAL OF DUNGARPUR, K.C.I.E. . . . .	132
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF IDAR . . . . .	133
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF REWA, G.C.S.I. . . . .	134
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF ORCHHA, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	135
HER HIGHNESS THE NAWAB BEGAM OF BHOPAL, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.I. . . . .	136
HIS HIGHNESS THE NAWAB OF TONK, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	137
MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA SCINDIA OF GWALIOR, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., A.D.C. . . . .	138
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA HOLKAR OF INDORE . . . . .	139
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF KOLHAPUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O. . . . .	150
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF DHAR, K.C.S.I. . . . .	151
HIS HIGHNESS THE KHAN OF KALAT, G.C.I.E. . . . .	152
HIS HIGHNESS THE MIR OF KHAIRPUR, G.C.I.E. . . . .	153
THE DURBAR: THE ENTRY OF THE VETERANS . . . . .	158
THE OPENING OF THE DURBAR . . . . .	159
THE HOMAGE CEREMONY . . . . .	162
HER HIGHNESS THE BEGAM OF BHOPAL AT THE HOMAGE CEREMONY . . . . .	163
THE CORONATION DURBAR: A PORTION OF THE AMPHITHEATRE . . . . .	163
COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS THE NAWAB OF RAMPUR, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., A.D.C. . . . .	166
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' PAGES . . . . .	167
THE SAWBWA OF YAUNGHWÉ . . . . .	168
THE SAWBWA OF HSIPAW . . . . .	169
CORONATION DURBAR: THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' ARRIVAL AT THE CENTRAL PAVILION . . . . .	170
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF DEWAS (SENIOR BRANCH), K.C.S.I. . . . .	171
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL MAKING THE IMPERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . . .	172
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF DEWAS (JUNIOR BRANCH) . . . . .	173
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAO OF CUTCH, G.C.I.E. . . . .	178
HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	179
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	182
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF COCHIN, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. . . . .	183
THE DARSHAN . . . . .	184

	FACING PAGE
THE PEOPLE BEFORE THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES	184
IN THE PALACE GROUNDS AT DELHI	185
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT THE FORT, DELHI	188
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES BEFORE THE PEOPLE	189
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, PRECEDED BY THE ROYAL STANDARD	194
CHANGING GUARD IN THE KING-EMPEROR'S CAMP	194
THE PRESENTATION OF COLOURS	195
THE BRITISH VETERANS AT DELHI	196
THE INDIAN VETERANS AT DELHI	197
THE REVIEW AT DELHI	198
THE REVIEW AT DELHI: A CAMEL CORPS	199
THE REVIEW AT DELHI	200
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY INSPECTING A NAVAL GUARD OF HONOUR AT DELHI	201
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' ARRIVAL AT THE KING EDWARD MEMORIAL CEREMONY	206
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY AT THE KING EDWARD MEMORIAL CEREMONY	206
LAYING INAUGURAL STONES OF THE NEW DELHI	207
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF PATIALA, G.C.I.E.	210
HIS HIGHNESS THE NAWAB OF BAHAWALPUR	211
THE KING-EMPEROR AT THE POLICE REVIEW	222
THE DELHI DURBAR MEDAL	223
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES ENTERING THE RAILWAY STATION AT SALIMGARH	226
AT SALIMGARH BEFORE DEPARTURE	226
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY GREETING THE MAHARAJA SIR CHANDRA SHAMSHER JANG OF NEPAL	230
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WAITING FOR A SHOT	231
A KILL	231
A SHOOTING RING	232
A MORNING'S SPORT	232
SHOOTING IN NEPAL	233
THE RETURN TO CAMP	233
MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF JAIPUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.	236
THE RESIDENCY, JAIPUR	237
HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY WITH THE MAHARAO RAJA OF BUNDI	238
HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY WITH THE MAHARAO OF KOTA	238
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAO RAJA OF BUNDI, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., K.C.S.I.	239
HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY AT KOTA	240
MAJOR HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAO OF KOTA, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.	241
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY CROSSING THE GANGES	246
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT PRINSEP'S GHAT, CALCUTTA	246
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA	247
THE REVIEW, CALCUTTA	252
HIS MAJESTY RETURNING FROM THE REVIEW, CALCUTTA	252
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA	253
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF BHUTAN, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.	254
HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF SIKKIM, K.C.I.E.	255
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT THE CALCUTTA PAGEANT	258
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' ARRIVAL AT THE CALCUTTA RACECOURSE	258
HER MAJESTY'S PAGES AT CALCUTTA	259
HIGH OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT PERSONAGES, CALCUTTA	
THE HON. SIR F. W. DUKE, THE HON. SIR LAWRENCE JENKINS, NAWAB WASIF ALI MIRZA OF MURSHIDABAD, MAHARAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB OF BURDWAN, MAHARAJA SIR RAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA, SIF R. MUKHERJI	260

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xi

	PAGE
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES LEAVING PRINSEP'S GHAT . . . . .	261
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES CROSSING THE RIVER HOOGHLY . . . . .	261
• THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT NAGPUR . . . . .	268
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES LEAVING BOMBAY . . . . .	268
THE WARSHIPS SALUTING AT BOMBAY . . . . .	269
THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' LAUNCH RETURNING TO THE MEDINA . . . . .	269
THE FAREWELL SALUTE . . . . .	270
THE MAHARAO RAJA OF BUNDI ON H.M.S. MEDINA . . . . .	271
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL LEAVING H.M.S. MEDINA . . . . .	271

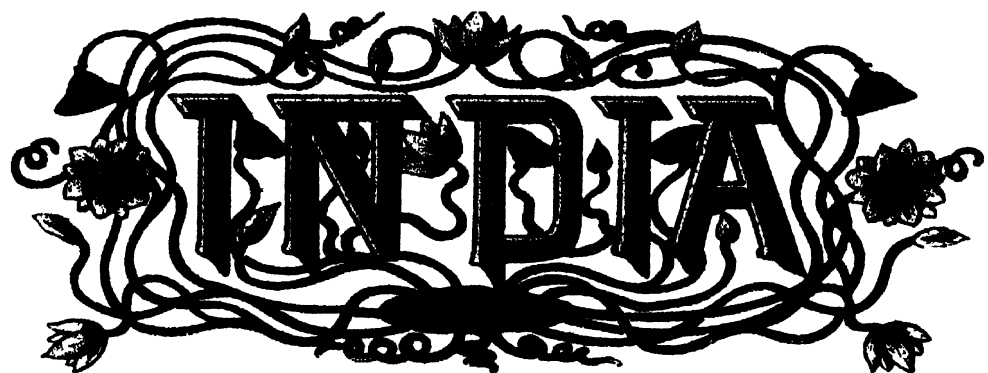
## ILLUMINATED HEAD AND TAIL PIECES

	PAGE
STAR OF INDIA . . . . .	I
INDIA . . . . .	I
"KAISER-I-HIND," EMPEROR OF INDIA . . . . .	3
"THE KING IS THE SHADOW OF GOD ON EARTH, UNDER WHOM ALL THE OPPRESSED TAKE SHELTER" ( <i>Persian</i> ) . . . . .	11
ARMS OF THE HONOURABLE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY . . . . .	11
"THE KING WHO IS THE PROTECTOR OF THE COUNTRY AND THE FAITH DESERVES A THOUSAND PRAISES" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	11
BADGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES . . . . .	21
"YOUR ROYAL UMBRELLA IS A BIRD OF HAPPY OMEN UNDER WHOSE WINGS THE WHOLE WORLD LIES" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	22
"MAYEST THOU ATTAIN THY WISHES IN THE WORLD AND HEAVEN BE THY FRIEND. MAY THE CREATOR BE THY PROTECTOR" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	34
MAHI: SYMBOL OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SEA . . . . .	34
"YOU ARE THE SUN OF THE COUNTRY, AND WHEREVER YOU GO THE WEALTH FLOWS LIKE A SHADOW BEHIND YOU" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	35
ARMS OF THE CITY OF BOMBAY . . . . .	51
DELHI . . . . .	52
"O SUN OF THE COUNTRY, BEFORE YOUR GENEROSITY THE TREASURES OF KINGS ARE AS INSIGNIFICANT AS AN ATOM" ( <i>Persian</i> ) . . . . .	59
"HE GLADDENS EYES AND HEARTS LIKE THE SUN, AND NONE ON EARTH CAN TAKE A FULL LOOK AT HIM" ( <i>Sanskrit</i> ) . . . . .	60
"WHEN GOD WISHES TO DO GOOD TO A NATION HE GIVES IT A JUST AND WELL-INTENTIONED KING" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	93
"HE ON WHOM YOUR GLANCE FELL RECEIVED A TREASURE, THE LAND ON WHICH YOUR SHADOW FELL BECAME A GARDEN FULL OF BLOSSOM" ( <i>Urdu: Amir Minai</i> ) . . . . .	94
"WHATEVER LAND ACQUIRES SPLENDOUR FROM THE KING'S FOOTSTEPS, THE GROUND BENEATH HIS FEET ACQUIRES HONOUR IN THE TWO WORLDS" ( <i>Urdu: Ghalib</i> ) . . . . .	123
DELHI HERALD SCEPTRE . . . . .	123
"JUST AS THE MIGHT OF THE SEA UNITES SEPARATE RIVERS, SO THE MIGHT OF A GREAT SOVEREIGN UNITES THOSE RULERS WHO DWELL APART FROM EACH OTHER ON EARTH" ( <i>Sanskrit</i> ) . . . . .	124
"ASYLUM OF THE UNIVERSE; SHADOW OF GOD OMNIPOTENT; RAY OF THE GRACE OF GOD THE CHERISHER OF ALL" ( <i>Persian: Sa'adi</i> ) . . . . .	143
"YOU ARE THANKFUL TO GOD, AND THE PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU. YOU ARE HAPPY IN RULING THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY IS HAPPY IN YOU" ( <i>Urdu</i> ) . . . . .	144
PORTION OF HOMAGE PAVILION . . . . .	155
PORTION OF EDGE OF DURBAR SHAMIANA . . . . .	155
PORTION OF MASNAD CARPET . . . . .	155
PORTION OF FRONTAGE OF AMPHITHEATRE . . . . .	177

	PAGE
DURBAR DAIS	177
"RESPECT FOR YOU ALL MUST HAVE, YOUR GENEROSITY EXTENDS EVERYWHERE" ( <i>Persian : Hafiz</i> )	178 <sup>c</sup>
"THE SULTAN IS THE CYNOSURE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, THE OCCUPIER OF THE THRONE OF THE DEITY" ( <i>Persian</i> )	190
BADGE OF RAI SAHEB	190
"BY THY VICTORIES THY NAME HAS BECOME FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. MAYEST THOU ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS OVER THY ENEMIES" ( <i>Urdu</i> )	191
"THE CURLING LOCK OF THE LADY OF CONQUEST IS ENAMoured OF THE TASSEL OF THY SPEAR : MAY THE EYES OF PERPETUAL VICTORY BE ENAMoured OF THY MOVEMENTS" ( <i>Persian</i> )	203
THE VICTORIA CROSS	203
BADGE OF THE ORDER OF BRITISH INDIA	203
"O RAGHAVA, ON YOUR INSTALLATION, ON YOUR CONQUERING THE WORLD, YOU DESERVE TO BE LOOKED ON IN THE WAY MEN LOOK ON THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SUN AT MIDDAY" ( <i>Hindi : Ramayana</i> )	204
CHAIN OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF INDIA	227
CHAIN OF THE ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE	227
BADGE OF KHAN BAHADUR	227
BADGE OF IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER	227
STAR OF THE ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE	227
"KINGS SANCTIFY THE COUNTRY WHICH THEY VISIT, AND CAUSE THEIR SUBJECTS TO RECEIVE LANDS, RICHES, CORN, AND ABUNDANCE OF WATER" ( <i>Sanskrit</i> )	228
"PROFOUND AS THE SEA (MINE OF GEMS) IS THY ROYAL HEART. GLORIOUS AS THE SUN, CONFERRING LIFE AND JOY ON THY SUBJECTS, ART THOU. LIKE THE LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS, IMMOVABLE ART THOU, BY CHANCE ACCIDENTS. WHO BUT THYSELF, O LORD OF MEN, SHOULD POSSESS THESE QUALITIES ?" ( <i>Tibetan</i> )	233
"THE SEASON OF HAPPINESS AND THE TIME OF FREEDOM HAVE ARRIVED. THE SPRING BREEZE IS BLOWING AND THE TREES ARE IN BLOSSOM" ( <i>Urdu : Sarkhosh</i> )	234
"AS YOU ARE ALWAYS MINDFUL OF AND EVER FOSTER YOUR SUBJECTS, EVERY COUNTRY THAT IS UNDER YOUR RULE IS LIKE A GARDEN" ( <i>Urdu : Zamana</i> )	244
TIBETAN DORZI	244
"WITH THE BLOWING OF MANY A CONCH SHELL AND THE BEAT OF MANY DRUMS, THE LION OF MEN ENTERED THE CITY WHICH WAS SURROUNDED AS BY A GARLAND WITH MANY PALATIAL BUILDINGS" ( <i>Sanskrit : Mahabharata</i> )	245
ARMS OF THE CITY OF CALCUTTA	266
"THAT TRAVELLER WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY A HUNDRED CARAVANS OF HEARTS, MAY GOD PROTECT HIM WHEREVER HE IS" ( <i>Persian : Hafiz</i> )	267
"MAY YOUR RULE SPREAD OVER LAND AND SEA LIKE THE WIND, AND YOUR JUDGMENT PREVAIL LIKE THE SOUL OVER THE LIMBS AND LIFE OF MANKIND" ( <i>Persian : Hafiz</i> )	282
"THE INCARNATION OF REGAL GRANDEUR AND MAGNIFICENCE, THE SOURCE AND LIMIT OF GENEROSITY AND MAGNANIMITY. THE FOCUS FOR THE RAYS OF COMPASSION, THE DISCRIMINATOR OF FRAGRANT BEAUTY" ( <i>Persian</i> )	283
"FOR A JUST EMPEROR HIS SUBJECTS ARE ALL HIS SOLDIERS" ( <i>Persian : Sa'adi</i> )	421
"WHEREVER HE GOES, O GOD, WATCH OVER HIM WITH YOUR ETERNAL PROTECTION"	457

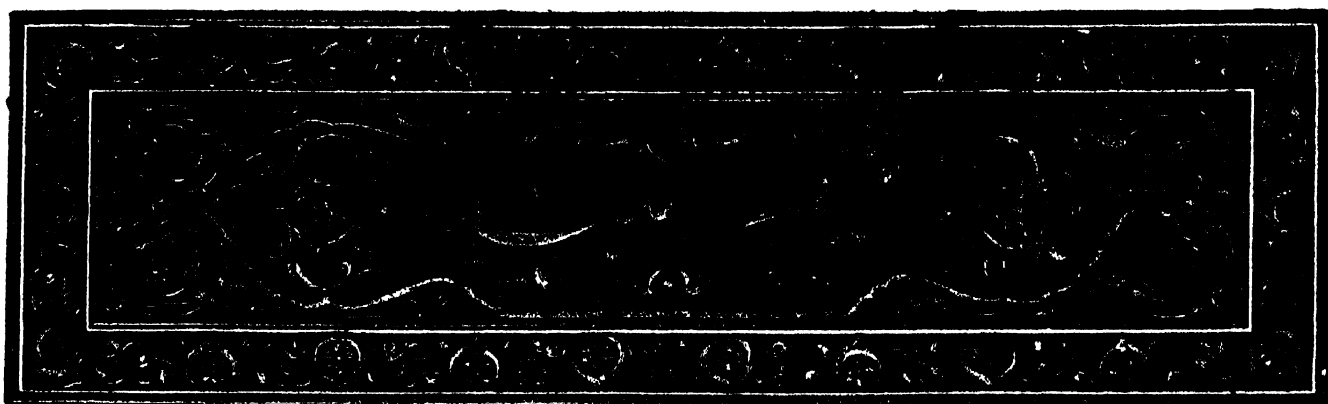
## PLANS

	PACING PAGE
PLAN SHOWING RELATIVE SITES OF THE DURBAR AMPHITHEATRES OF 1877, 1903, 1911	146
TRACK OF THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' JOURNEY	272
MAP ILLUSTRATING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES ANNOUNCED AT DELHI	272
PLAN OF THE CORONATION DURBAR AREA, DELHI, 1911	End of Book









## I—A RETROSPECT

INDIA has always had its royal progresses and pageants, its coronations and durbars. From the dawn of history, and before, the stories that come down to us are all of kings and princes, their successions and their conquests, their bounties and their bans. The Mahabharata tells us of a vast amphitheatre, shaded by canopies of brilliant colours and resounding with a thousand trumpets, erected on an auspicious and level plain outside what is now the city of Delhi, where the princes and the citizens took their seats on platforms to witness a ceremony of high state. In the Ramayana, too, we read how for the coronation of the great hero prince the people—

“From the confines of the Empire, North and South and West and East,  
Came to see the consecration and to share the royal feast.”

These classic assemblages have thus been familiar tales for many thousand years, while the art of ceremonial had been described in the vedas of Indian antiquity ages before Europe began to emerge from the mists of time. The rules of ritual and the symbolisms of state have remained unchanged for centuries, and it is not surprising, therefore, that these things have passed into the very life of the people and become part of their corporate consciousness.

To the Indian, with all this behind him, a great public ceremony naturally means more than it ever can to the matter-of-fact European, and when the occasion is associated in some personal way with the sovereign ruler himself it acquires a significance of which the Western mind can form no adequate conception. For the attachment and devotion of the Indian to the person of the monarch is no mere reasoned acquiescence and approval or instinctive sentiment born of tradition and centuries of habit. It rises altogether above the sphere of secular things, for the Indian idea of sovereign power is one of those

peculiarly oriental principles in which the spiritual and the mundane are closely interwoven.

To the Musalman the monarch is "the shadow of God on earth, under whom all the oppressed of his creatures seek shelter." To the Hindu he is not only the symbol of political power and authority, but is regarded also as intended in the economy of nature to "direct, mould and regulate such power and authority along channels conducive to the promotion of the highest interests of humanity." The king is endowed with the greatest of missions and consequently with the fullest power. He is the embodiment of the highest ideals of the community. His object is to secure observance of the eternal laws, and it is in this capacity, as the champion of right and righteousness, that his office is held to be spiritual and his person sacred.

In the words of the great lawgiver Manu, "he gladdens eyes and hearts like the sun, and none on earth can take a full look at him."

In this way loyalty to the sovereign comes in India to have a much deeper meaning than in countries where it is only a sentiment of respect to the political head of the state and an acknowledgment of the supremacy which he represents, and there are no peoples on the face of the earth who are more swift than those of India at converting ideas into tangible facts, or among whom the foundations of organized society, based on a genuine and heartfelt personal allegiance, are, consequently, more secure. The Indian ruler of to-day, whether he be of the same race as his people or an alien, is still regarded as their "father and mother," as he was thousands of years ago. His word is above dispute and his merest wish is a command. He is the sun of the local firmament, and his office is inseparable from his person: his features are familiar in every village, and it is his personal festivals, his birthdays and his wedding-day, that are the great holidays of the people, which lend colour and interest to their lives.

Even the greatest of the Asian kings, however, were lords only of a part of the land. Asoka was limited by the Palar River, the Kushan rulers never got beyond Benares, Mahomed Ghorî stopped short in Central India, Ala-ud-din knew nothing of Bengal, Akbar halted on the outskirts of the Deccan, and Aurangzeb's great empire was torn at the heart. They had all been conquerors, and they were conquered in their turn. It remained for a company of merchant adventurers from the West, with a charter from the English Crown, to establish an undisputed paramountcy not only over the vast territory of peninsular India, from the borders of Persia to the marches of the Mongols, but also over the whole of the eastern seas, from Egypt to the Pacific. The Company, however, though supreme, was not really sovereign; for the idea of government by a distant committee unendowed with any distinct personality was altogether beyond the grasp of a people who from time immemorial had been accustomed to individual rulers.

India remained, therefore, still only a geographical expression so far as its own people were concerned, consisting of a number of separate political units, each under the personal sway either of an hereditary native chief or of a British administrator appointed by the Company. It was not yet organized as a single commonwealth with a character and a destiny of its own, and, though there was a Governor-General, and individual Englishmen claimed allegiance in particular instances, they were all merely the delegated representatives of a soulless machine, the "Company Bahadur," a nebulous and intangible abstraction that entirely failed to touch the imaginations of the people or to take account of the feelings of distrust and dissatisfaction which were the inevitable result of so exotic a growth. There could be no doubt that, as an old writer of the Moghul times had said, "the stability and solid dignity of regal Government must have infinitely greater weight with Asiatick princes than the fluctuating unsteady resolves of a company of private men."

Half way through the nineteenth century, Hindus and Musalmans alike were impelled by all that was sacred to rally under the only monarch then in view, the puppet king of Delhi. The tragedy of 1857 followed, and no one but Queen Victoria herself was able to diagnose the disease and prescribe the remedy. With an unconscious statesmanship that will for ever bear the impress of her own benign personality she saw at once what was lacking, and in token of the strong and genuine sympathy that she felt, she sought to soothe the wounds of India by drawing it more closely to herself.

The proclamation of the direct supremacy of the British Crown, simple and natural enough as it appears at the present day in the light of what has followed, was a stroke of genius at the time. "It sealed the unity of Indian government and opened a new era." It was the act of a great Sovereign mother which appealed to oriental sentiment as nothing else could have done. An entirely new keynote was struck. Her Majesty directed her Minister to issue the great announcement, "bearing in mind that it is a female Sovereign who speaks to more than a hundred millions of Eastern people on assuming the direct government over them and, after a bloody war, giving them pledges which her future reign is to redeem and explaining the principles of her government." "Such a document," said Her Majesty, "should breathe feelings of generosity, benevolence, and religious toleration, and point out the privileges which the Indians will receive in being placed on an equality with the subjects of the British Crown."

It was the greatest event in a long history of great things. Now for the first time on record the whole of the vast continent of India, greater in extent than Europe itself, excluding Russia, acknowledged not only the hegemony of a single power, but the guardianship of a single person.

Some time, however, had to elapse before the loose, unknitted threads of feudal subordination or quasi-international agreement could be bound together

in a bond of common interest. Suspicion was rife, and communications were difficult. India was divided into watertight compartments; and Lord Canning, the Viceroy, instead of holding one great assemblage to explain the blessings which the Crown had bestowed, and to give tangible proof of the Sovereign's goodwill, had need to travel about from province to province and from state to state to hold separate functions at the capitals of each.

It was from these durbars and semi-royal progresses, these revivals of the old tradition, that the country first appreciated the change that had taken place; but fears and doubts die hard in the East, and it was not till the future king, Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, visited India in 1875-6, that there was any general consciousness of a rule that fulfilled the ideas and aspirations of the people. When this was attained, the time had come for a still further step, and, after hearing from her own son of the unanimity of sentiment which his visit had evoked, the Queen herself, with a view "specially to mark Her Majesty's interest in this great Dependency of Her Crown and Her Royal confidence in the loyalty and affection of the Princes and People of India," decided to undertake the more exalted task of an Imperial responsibility. The title of Empress, which Her Majesty assumed in 1877, meant a strengthening of the tie and a broadening of its basis. It was a high compliment to the native rulers, and it raised them to a new plane. It gave a definite shape to the conception of the commonwealth: it substituted association for subordination, and progress for stagnation.

The barriers of distrust had been broken down already, and those of distance had disappeared with the advent of the railway. Social bulkheads, too, showed signs of giving way. This time, therefore, the Viceroy was able, in the name of the Crown, to summon all the great Chiefs and officials to join him in a single celebration of the event, and to be sure of their attendance.

The notion of an Empire in which both Europeans and Asiatics should be ruled by a monarch who was indifferent to the distinction between them and was looked on by all equally as their sovereign, had been formed some two and twenty centuries before by Alexander the Great, but there it remained until the intuitive sympathies of a woman and the instinctive statesmanship of an English queen achieved what had not been found possible either by him or by any one of the great leaders who succeeded him over the passes of India. The common homage of the English and the Indians to a single throne suggested an entirely new basis of mutual relationship, and the whole of India, oppressed by conquerors and depressed by conquest, saw the promise of a new life and a return to the old ideals. The meeting of racial foes and diverse elements at Lord Lytton's assemblage was an earnest of unity and concord, and during the years that followed there was ample proof that the Imperial purpose was bearing good fruit. The awakening was remarkable. Indian troops went gladly to the wars beyond the seas: Indian Princes journeyed to England to take a prominent part





*Photo. Jenkins.*

*His Excellency Baron Hardinge of Penshurst, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.,  
Governor General of India.*







in the Jubilee rejoicings; they also set apart a portion of their forces as a special contribution to the defence of the Empire. For the first time in its history India enjoyed a quarter of a century of complete peace within its borders; education and medical relief were brought within the reach of all, communications were increased a thousand times, the spectre of famine was hunted down, schemes for material advancement that were unsurpassed in magnitude and boldness had been carried out, and commercial prosperity was such as had never yet been known. The Empress herself kept Indians always near her as a perpetual reminder of her obligations and to show her sympathy by learning something of their language and customs. And when at last her long and glorious reign came to an end, India mourned her loss with a depth of feeling for which the world had no parallel. The people knew her as the great mother who had given life to their land, and who, in the words of his present Majesty, "though never privileged to see her Indian subjects in their own countries, seemed to have the peculiar power of being in touch and in sympathy with all classes of this continent."

In 1901 the first Emperor of all India ascended the Throne in her stead, and a great wave of desire swept over the land to give some formal expression to the new consciousness and to rejoice at the accession of a sovereign who already knew India and its peoples personally. The presence at the Coronation of chosen representatives from each province and group of States, though a necessary consequence of India's proud position in the Imperial polity, was not enough. If a Durbar had been held in 1877, at least a similar display was called for to mark the first accession since the Empire was created and to show that the Imperial sway had now become dynastic. Something was required also to express the growth of unity and the interest of all in its advancement; men wanted, too, a landmark where they could halt and take stock of the progress that had been made before moving on to the next stage. Among the people the gateway had been opened to the learning of the West, and extraordinary results were beginning to appear, while the Ruling Princes, who had been hailed by the last Viceroy of the Empress as his partners in the administration of the country, were already feeling a stronger sense of their own dignity and the greatness of the scheme in which they figured. The traditional durbar was inevitable: it was demanded, if by nothing else, by the crisis of the time, and the splendid and impressive scene enacted at Delhi on the 1st January 1903 was the result. In Lord Lytton's Durbar the Chiefs and the Governors had sat apart from the Viceregent of the Crown: they had their own separate entrances, and their part in the ceremony was an almost passive one. The Viceroy did everything: the public had no part at all, though they crowded in behind the *dais* to the number of some hundreds. In Lord Curzon's Durbar all, Chiefs and Governors alike, were ranged in token of partnership, with the Viceroy himself as their leader, at equal distances round the Royal Standard,

the symbol of the Emperor. And this time also the Chiefs, with unmistakable pleasure and sincerity, took an imposing and important part in the ceremony, which was also witnessed by many tens of thousands of the general public, who were allotted a definite though very distant place in the proceedings. In 1877 there was only the ceremony at Delhi: in 1903 the Durbar had its echo throughout the length and breadth of India in the local celebrations that were everywhere held, thus demonstrating that the King was Emperor of a more loyal and an infinitely greater India than had ever owned the sway of any other ruler.

But the Durbar was more than a mere reflection of the signs of the times; it also shed a light of its own that revealed the Indian Empire for the first time as a full-grown, living form. The Princes and people alike, to use the Viceroy's own words, learned that "under the benign influence of the British Crown they were one, that they were not scattered atoms in a heterogeneous and cumbersome mass, but co-ordinate units in a harmonious and majestic whole." Everywhere it was known "that upon the Throne of the East is seated a power that has made of the sentiments, the aspirations, and the interests of three hundred millions of Asiatics, a living thing, and the units in that great aggregation have learned that in their incorporation lies their strength." The entire people was "lifted for a little space out of the rut of their narrow and parochial lives to catch a glimpse of a higher ideal, an appreciation of the hidden laws that regulate the march of nations and the destinies of men." The great aim of Lord Curzon was to organize India for peaceful development within and to fortify it for efficient resistance to pressure from without. His chief desire was to show that participation in the Empire involved responsibilities as well as rights, and that the links which held it together were "not iron fetters forged for the weak by the strong"; nor "artificial couplings that will snap asunder the moment that any unusual strain is placed upon them"; but "silken strands that have been woven into a strong cable by the mutual instincts of pride and duty, of self-sacrifice and esteem." Shortly afterwards there came an offer from the Princes to broaden the basis of their Imperial Service contributions, and they gave other indications of a desire for a greater degree of co-operation. In the provinces there arose, among the educated middle classes, a conscious aspiration for a share in their own politics. Everywhere, after the Durbar, the pulse beat faster and life was strengthened by the knowledge of power and community. But there was one thing lacking. The hope had been cherished that the Emperor himself, as the visible embodiment of the new spirit, might have been able to preside in person at his Durbar, but the cares of state prevented him from undertaking so long an absence from Great Britain. India desired earnestly to look on the face of its own Sovereign. Very few remained who had seen the Prince of Wales in 1876, and of those fewer still realized that he was the same as the great monarch of a quarter of

the whole human race to whom they owed allegiance. His Majesty sent messages of sympathetic and affectionate regard, and these were gladly received; but he himself was far away, and the oriental mind remained unsatisfied.

It was, therefore, with feelings of the greatest contentment that at the beginning of 1905 the news was received of the Emperor's resolve to entrust his own son and heir with a mission of goodwill and benefit to his distant subjects in India. "To us, Indians," said an eminent citizen of Bombay, who voiced the common sentiment, "the King is but the embodiment of all that is good and noble, and the presence amongst us of our future Emperor cannot but stir our hearts to their inmost depths. Beside evoking sentiments of loyalty, such Royal visits serve to bring the members of the Royal Family into personal and actual contact with the subject races of India, and enable them to acquaint themselves at first hand with our hopes and ambitions, our needs and aspirations. It was such noble sentiments as these that prompted the late Queen-Empress of India to send out her Royal sons to convey to us her message of sympathy and love. It is a like stroke of genuine statesmanship on the part of our present King-Emperor that prompts him to send out to us Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, to intimate to us that India holds no mean corner in his noble heart, and engages no small portion of his affections."

The visit more than fulfilled the greatest expectations: not only was India able to test the sympathies and character of its illustrious guests, but the latter themselves acquired in six months an insight into the condition of all classes and a knowledge of the country that was quite unique. It was no tour of sport and pastime, but a voyage of strenuous duty, with but one idea throughout of friendship and affection. "I cannot help thinking, from all I have heard and seen," said the Prince on his return to England, "that the task of governing India will be made the easier if we, on our part, infuse into it a wider element of sympathy. I will venture to predict that to such sympathy there will be an ever-abundant and genuine response." These words were no mere empty precept, but the fruit of personal experience gained in all parts of India—among the famine-stricken villagers of Gwalior, and the prosperous peasants of Burma; on the barren rocks of the Afghan frontier, and in the wealthy streets of Calcutta.

But this was not the only result. India was enabled to see more clearly the path that it was treading. Old obstacles were removed, and the new ideas required some more permanent embodiment than the visit gave them. It was felt everywhere that, with its vast populations, its modern education, its political potentialities, its ever-increasing contact with the West, and above all its closer touch with the Imperial House, the India of to-day had outgrown the narrow limits of the administration bequeathed to it by the old trading Company.

"The advance," said King Edward, "may have sometimes seemed slow; but the incorporation of many strangely diversified communities, and of some three hundred millions of the human race, under British guidance and control, has proceeded steadfastly and without pause." Hitherto British effort in India had been concentrated rather on the perfection of old methods than the evolution of new ones; on efficiency and justice, on the paternal care of the untaught many, on the protection of the frontier and the prosperity of the plains, and, under the fostering care of this régime, new notions had developed among the well-taught few. Lord Curzon's Durbar had given India the first sight of itself and of stupendous changes, but it was the Royal visit that completed the revelation and enabled the Emperor himself, as a result of the favourable reception accorded to his son, to gauge the whole position and to appreciate the extent to which India had grown. In November 1908 he issued by the mouth of Lord Minto at Jodhpur his great commemorative message in which he surveyed "with clear gaze and good conscience" the work of the previous fifty years, and as an earnest of the "sincere feelings of active sympathy and hope for India on the part of my Royal House and Line," he expressed his desire and intention, in order "to mark a notable stage in the beneficent progress of your affairs," to give to India an increased part in its own governance. "From the first, the principle of representative institutions began to be gradually introduced, and the time has come when, in the judgment of my Viceroy and Governor-General and others of my counsellors, that principle may be prudently extended. Important classes among you, representing ideas that have been fostered and encouraged by British rule, claim equality of citizenship, and greater share in legislation and government. The politic satisfaction of such a claim will strengthen, not impair, existing authority and power. Administration will be all the more efficient, if the officers who conduct it have greater opportunities of regular contact with those whom it affects, and with those who influence and reflect common opinion about it."

And when King Edward passed away, the voice of lamentation in India was heard through all the world. It was great because of unison and the blending of new power with old spiritual ideals.

For the same reason the demand for a general celebration to inaugurate the new reign was also very strong.

Their Majesties would be crowned in London, and vested there with all the attributes of sway throughout the Empire. What need, then, of anything further? This question was only asked by those who had failed to imbibe the spirit of the East, or were unaware of the almost unvarying custom that brings the oriental ruler on such occasions face to face with his feudatories and subjects. "To the East," said Lord Curzon, "there is nothing strange, but something familiar and even sacred, in the practice that brings Sovereigns into communion with their people in a ceremony of public solemnity and rejoicing, after



ARMS OF THE HONOURABLE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.



they have succeeded to their high estate. Every Sovereign of India, or of parts of India, did it in the old days. Every Chief in India—the illustration may even be carried as far as the titled noblemen and zamindars—does it now ; and the installation durbar is an accepted and acceptable feature of ceremonial life from one end of the country to the other. If this is so in all the grades of our social hierarchy, how much more important and desirable it is that it should obtain in the highest ! I find, for my part, in such a ceremony much more than a mere official recognition of the fact that one monarch has died and another succeeded. To millions of the people, in their remote and contracted lives, this can make little difference. But the community of interest between a Sovereign and his people—to which such a function testifies, and which it serves to keep alive—is most vital and most important.”

One Durbar had been held in 1877 to celebrate the passing of India under the Imperial rule ; another, the greatest and most imposing ceremony that India had ever witnessed, and attended by no less a personage than the King-Emperor's own brother, had taken place to inaugurate the reign of Edward the Peacemaker ; but both of these were special landmarks, and of themselves they by no means involved a repetition at each succeeding stage along the same highway.

In the meantime, however, the road had been widened and its foundations made much deeper : increased facilities for communication and the spread of Western knowledge had also brought many hitherto unsuspected factors into the scheme. And more than this, the new Emperor and Empress were personally known and beloved from one end of the land to the other, and they were remembered in a special sense for many of “ those little acts of human loving-kindness in which all Victoria's line abound.” The country had not forgotten Their Majesties' affectionate bearing when they visited it as Prince and Princess of Wales, and many stories of the condescension and kindness of the all-powerful prince had already passed into legend. People in hospitals had gone back to their villages and told how without any warning the *Shahzada* and his gracious consort had appeared before them and from that moment their pain had disappeared ; soldiers in the army never tired of telling their newly joined comrades how the head of all the armies of the Empire had passed along their ranks and commanded them in the field at the Rawalpindi manœuvres ; famine-stricken villagers in Central India related how the future Emperor with his own hands had relieved their wants and by his presence blessed their land so that it became fertile. Restless Indian journalists remembered that His Royal Highness had singled them out for a conversation, and how from that time the tone of their writings had changed. There were, therefore, very good reasons for the general desire to celebrate in India the commencement of the reign, and it was assumed without question that at least a ceremony like the previous one would again be held for the Princes and the people to receive the Emperor's assurance and greeting and for their public homage to his rule.

Men wanted, too, some light to guide them at the threshold of new things. The prospect was bright, but the vista of politics led they knew not whither. "Government; which oriental thought had always honoured and Greek philosophy has called the highest of human tasks, was falling from her high place to the level of the forum and the market, and was in danger of becoming a mere matter of demand and supply and of the clash of intelligences. The divinely ordained, patriarchal, ethical relation was passing into something new and strange—commercial, competitive, and intellectual." The share in the government that had already been given seemed indeed to lead to more, for by this very participation itself the idea of individual rule that is so essential to the soul of India began once more to fade into the background. Our system of government was again in danger of losing its appeal to the deepest sentiments and of becoming something prosaic and dull, without any hold on the hearts of the people.

It is interesting to recall the words of the Viceroy in 1904. "You will never rule the East," he said, "except through the heart, and the moment imagination has gone out of your Asiatic policy your Empire will dwindle and decay." The Crown was the one symbol and token of continuity, the one link between spiritual and mundane, the only part of government that touched the people's hearts. It was therefore only natural that with the accession of an Emperor who was known all should turn to him for guidance and support. There was a strong hope that his acquaintance and sympathy with India would take some concrete form, and that the celebration to be held would, in some way or other that they could not guess, be made to mark the changes of thought and circumstance that had been so rapidly maturing; that there would be a closer connexion with the Crown and a further adjustment of the machinery of government "to the requirements of ancient communities slowly entering a new world." Precedent, however, made no claims on the King-Emperor's own presence, and there was no need for him to go to India to become its sovereign lord. The Crown of England is also that of India, and the gold Imperial Robe with which His Majesty was invested at the Coronation with every solemn rite was woven with the emblem of India as well as of the British Kingdoms to show that he was equally lord-paramount of one as of the other. The Durbar could have been held by his own chosen representative, as it had been in 1903; but India had not forgotten the words which Lord Curzon had then spoken: "Some day we may hope that, as time and distance continue to dwindle under the magic finger of science, it may be found possible for the Viceroy on some future occasion like the present to be eliminated as a superfluous phantom and for the real figure to appear on the scene." In 1910, however, in view of His Majesty's recent visit to India as Prince of Wales and of the pressing nature of public business in Europe, it seemed almost too much to hope that this prediction could be realized. And so it would have been but for the action taken by His Majesty



himself. Almost his first public act after ascending the Throne was to send a message to his subjects in the East. "I count," he said, "upon your ready response to the earnest sympathy with the well-being of India that must ever be the inspiration of my rule"; and within three weeks of his accession he had informed his closest counsellors of his desire to visit India as soon as possible after the Coronation.

His Majesty had formed a new ideal of his high office and recognized most clearly that the Crown was the one and only power by which the scattered elements, not of India only, but of his other vast dominions, could be welded into a single living whole for the benefit of all, and he came first of all to India in pursuance of this great design, with the fullest confidence not only that the people of England would, for the sake of their Indian fellow-subjects, readily make the sacrifice involved in his absence, but that the millions of India would not fail to respond, and would regard his visit as the strongest possible proof of British goodwill. In his own words, he wished not only "to strengthen the old ties but to create new ones, and so, please God, secure a better understanding and a closer union between the mother country and her Indian Empire, to break down prejudice, to dispel misapprehension, and to foster sympathy and brotherhood."

The high place which India thus occupied in his thoughts was a result not merely of the tradition handed down from Queen Victoria and King Edward, both of whom had watched the interests of India, its Princes, and peoples, "with an affectionate solicitude that time cannot weaken," but more particularly of his personal remembrance of 1905-6, when by his liberal intercourse with all sections of the community he had realized the "patience, the simplicity of life, the loyal devotion, the religious spirit which characterizes the Indian peoples." He appreciated perhaps better than any one in England what it was that India required, and how arid and unstimulating political life there was liable to become without this Royal favour. He had seen with his own eyes, and knew that he alone could make the right appeal.

"From Bombay I set forth in 1905, encouraged by your affectionate welcome, to traverse at any rate a part of this vast country and to strive to gain some knowledge of its people. Such knowledge as I acquired could not but deepen my sympathy with all races and creeds, and when through the lamented death of my beloved father I was called to the Throne of my ancestors, one of my first and most earnest desires was to revisit my good subjects in India." Many reasons connected with the politics of the time have been suggested to account for the Emperor's action, but these words, spoken by His Majesty himself on landing at Bombay in 1911, show that the idea was an entirely instinctive and spontaneous one of his own. Without the feelings of affinity and affection that gave rise to it, no grounds of public policy would have sufficed to lead Their Imperial Majesties to undertake so arduous and troublesome a pilgrimage with

the labours and fatigues of the Coronation ceremonies still upon them. "By my presence with the Queen-Empress," added His Majesty at the Durbar, "I am anxious to show our affection for the loyal Princes and faithful people of India"; and at his departure he spoke of the "genuine love and devotion towards us which we feel have entered into the spirit of the people," and of "thankfulness at having accomplished the earnest wish of our heart."

The project was original and bold. Never had a King of England journeyed so far from his accustomed sphere, and only one, over seven hundred years before, had ever set foot within the confines of Asia. India had suffered the advent of many alien emperors and kings, the European Alexander and the Asiatic Timur, but never yet had any monarch come on a peaceful errand of goodwill and favour.

It was not to be wondered at that such a novel departure aroused the gravest fears and doubts among His Majesty's counsellors and friends, or that many of them should have thought the experiment a highly dangerous one, not only by reason of the prolonged absence of the Sovereign from England at a time when the political horizon was by no means clear, but also because the internal condition of India had been recently disturbed. Nor were these the only troubles, for the journey between England and India in the winter of 1911-12 involved passing through seas where two great nations were engaged in armed conflict, and the failure of the normal rains in India made it appear at one time that even if the Emperor did come, it would be to a land of distress that could not honour the occasion. Well might he have been discouraged, yet he never wavered in his purpose, for the undertaking was a labour of love, the offspring of a deep and genuine affection for India and all that it contained—

"Private wish and public duty made his path serene and clear."

No statesman of modern times was better qualified than His Majesty to form the decision that he did, for no one else possessed the complete experience of the whole British Empire that he and the Queen-Empress had gained in the course of world-wide tours: not even among the officials with a lifelong knowledge of India was there a single one who had travelled in the country so extensively and intensively as they, and in Lord Hardinge, the new Viceroy, the King-Emperor had the advantage of a deputy who had been the close friend and trusted servant of his father. Very few will ever know or realize how entirely the event was due to His Majesty's own initiative, how great were the difficulties he had to overcome and the courage he had to display, or how strong was, and still is, his personal feeling for his Indian people and his sense of responsibility for their welfare. He declined to be deterred by any obstacle, for he trusted and loved his people; but he knew that he and the Queen-Empress would have to undergo much personal discomfort and inconvenience in making so long and

troublesome a journey, and the people of India remember with gratitude that he did this willingly for their sakes.

The joy with which India learnt of His Majesty's generous resolve was indescribable. His gracious intention was announced by Lord Hardinge on his arrival in Bombay on the 18th November 1910; it was referred to in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament on the 6th February 1911, and was formally announced in England and in India simultaneously on the 23rd March 1911, as follows :

• *By the KING-EMPEROR,*

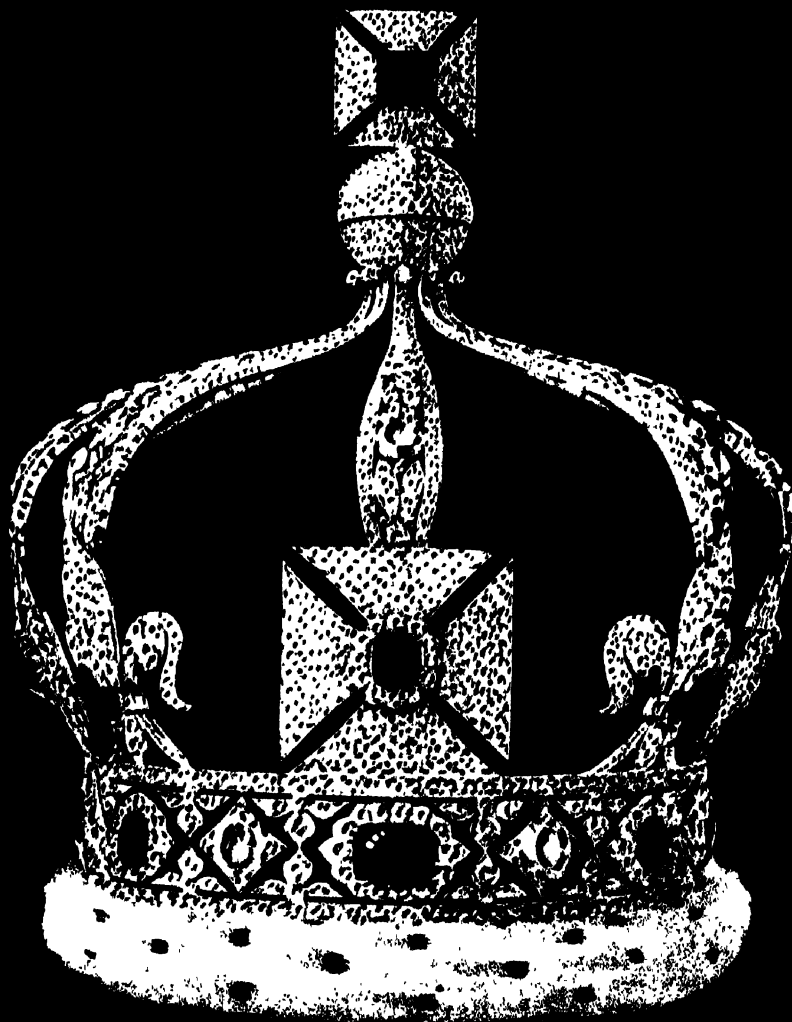
*A Royal Proclamation for appointing a Day for the Celebration in His Majesty's Indian Dominions of the Solemnity of the Coronation of His Majesty*

**W**HEREAS upon the death of OUR late Sovereign of happy memory King Edward, upon the sixth day of May in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ten, WE did ascend the Throne under the style and title of GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India ;

AND WHEREAS, by OUR Royal Proclamations bearing date the nineteenth day of July and the seventh day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ten in the first Year of OUR Reign, WE did publish and declare OUR Royal intention, by the Favour and Blessing of ALMIGHTY GOD, to celebrate the Solemnity of OUR Royal Coronation upon the twenty-second day of June, one thousand nine hundred and eleven ;

AND WHEREAS it is OUR wish and desire OURSELVES to make known to all OUR loving subjects within OUR Indian Dominions that the said Solemnity has been so celebrated, and to call to OUR Presence OUR Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, and other of OUR Officers, the Princes, Chiefs, and Nobles of the Native States under OUR Protection, and the Representatives of all the Provinces of OUR Indian Empire ;

NOW WE do, by this OUR Royal Proclamation, declare OUR Royal intention to hold at Delhi on the twelfth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, an Imperial Durbar for the purpose of making known the said Solemnity of OUR Coronation : and WE do hereby charge and command OUR Right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor Charles, Baron Hardinge of Penshurst,



THE IMPERIAL CROWN WORN AT DELHI



OUR Viceroy and Governor-General of India, to take all necessary measures in that behalf.

GIVEN at OUR Court at Buckingham Palace, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and in the first Year of OUR Reign.

*God save the King-Emperor.*

No Royal Decree could have been more enthusiastically received. The Indian press was unanimous and exuberant. India was gratified and its self-respect was restored. It appreciated the favour of a second visit, and particularly the fact that it came first in preference to all the great Dominions and that the visit was to be made as soon as possible after the great solemnity in London. The glad tidings spread to every village, and the dull course of sordid lives was brightened by a golden vision, for at last India was once again to look on the face of its Sovereign and fulfil its ancient longings. It is difficult to realize what the mere presence of the Emperor meant to a people with the ideas and ideals of Hindustan. This of itself alone would have been sufficient, but other expectations also were raised, for it was known throughout the land that tangible as well as immaterial favours were the customary accompaniment of great dynastic events. *Khillats*, money doles and individual concessions might be given by the Ruling Chiefs of the country, but the mighty *Badshah* himself would without a doubt do something of far more widespread consequence. Everywhere men went about with glad faces. Litigants abandoned their suits on the ground that now the King was coming, justice would be secured to them without an effort. The officers of government acquired a new prestige as ministers of the Royal will and pleasure; the tillers of the soil ignored the failure of rain, for the earth must bring forth her increase when the Sovereign's foot was set upon it; pilgrims started from distant places to catch a glimpse of the King as he passed by. Sedition was silent, and for the first time in history the united gaze of over three hundred million faces was directed with joy towards a single human figure. The event was one of tremendous importance in the history of the Empire. Political aspirations were lifted to a higher plane, patriotism was broadened and intensified, a new pride arose in the heritage of the Empire, and with it a stronger feeling of mutual respect and a better social relationship between the natives of India and the natives of England, to all of whom the King was common, irrespective of religion, race, or colour.

And the King-Emperor was not to come alone. The gracious visit of the Queen-Empress turned men's minds once more towards the Vedic golden

age when queen and ladies were equal with their husbands in the eyes of gods and men, and enjoyed the same privileges; and, by emphasizing the dignity and respect that all Englishmen attach to Her Majesty as a woman and as the sharer of the Throne, it helped to bring a little nearer the more modern vision of the relumination of India by the uplifting of its womankind.

The Coronation itself, with its deep religious significances and its splendid symbolisms, appealed strongly to the Indian mind, and among those who witnessed it were several of the Ruling Princes of the Native States, as well as representatives of the different units of the Indian Army and of the various Indian populations in the provinces. The day was kept as a public holiday in India with the greatest rejoicings. The Viceroy was overwhelmed with loyal messages and almost every community capable of formulating its sentiments had its own attraction of some kind. But the visit had a larger place in Indian sentiment.

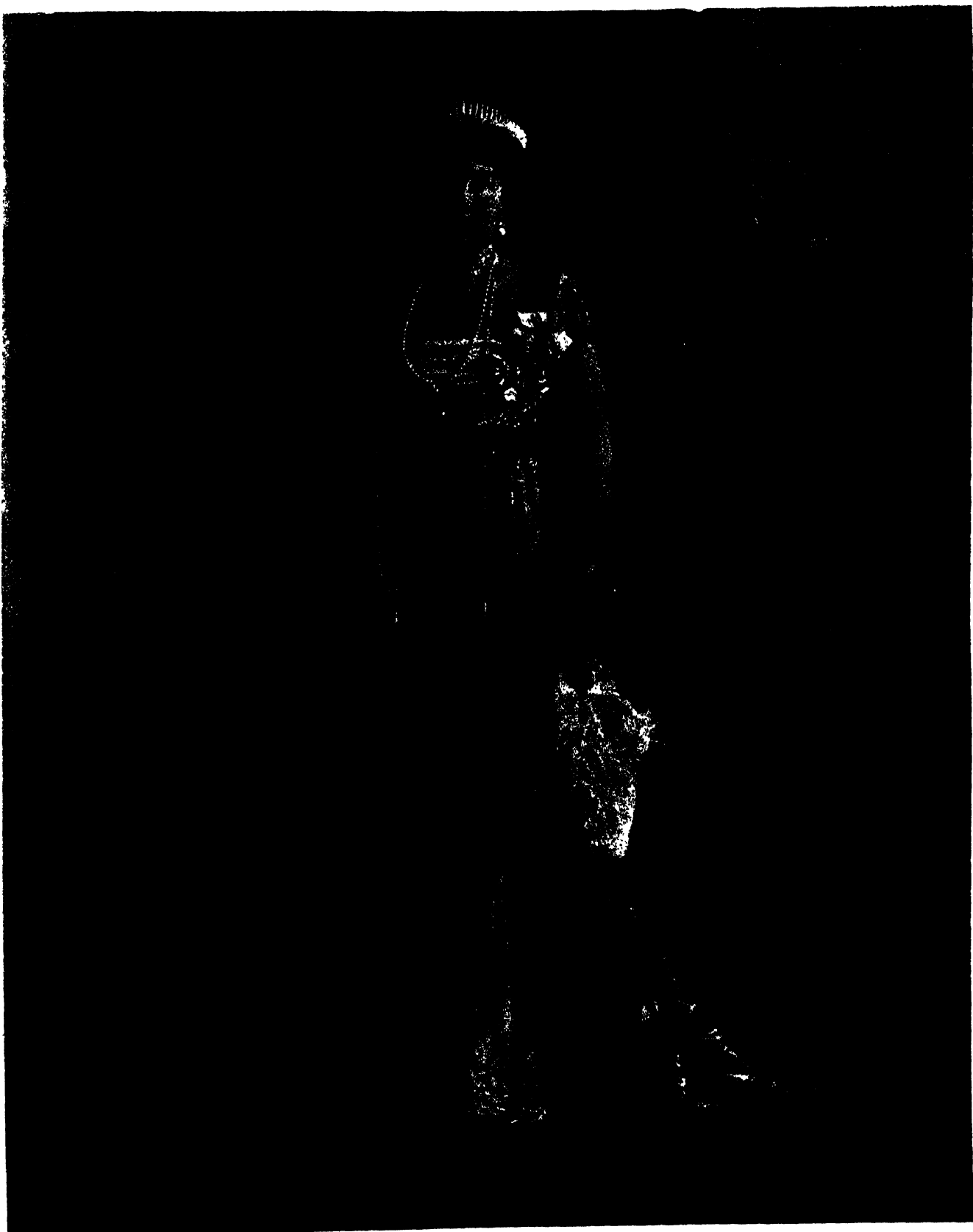
At a meeting in Bombay, the eminent Indian already quoted spoke of the visit as "nothing less than an emphatic announcement that we are an equal and integral part of the British Empire. It will," he said, "be a fervent and solemn and deliberate assurance that the Emperor's watchful eye will always be upon us, on our weal and on our woe, that his unceasing interest and sympathy will cover and envelop the development of our destinies and will be a stimulus and example to all concerned in the administration of the country. It will be tidings of great joy for the present and of glowing hope for the future. It will indeed be the perfect and practical fulfilment of the noble words—as wise as they are generous—uttered by that great and good Queen when she assumed the direct sovereignty of the Indian Empire in the great proclamation of 1858: 'We hold ourselves bound to the natives of our Indian territories by the same obligation of duty which binds us to all our other subjects, and these obligations, by the blessing of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil.' It is no wonder, then, the whole country is preparing to hail the advent of Their Majesties with unbounded joy, enthusiasm, and loyalty."

Never, in fact, was a more magnificent welcome given, and never was a greeting more cordial on both sides. Not a single untoward incident occurred, and that the Imperial confidence was not misplaced, there can be no two opinions. The great traditional observance at Delhi was no mere summing-up of the history and romance of the past, it was a new starting-point for the future. It was marred by no note of pain or of pity, as in the old days of prostrate and captive kings. The Princes paid their homage with joy and unanimity, and the people for the first time were admitted to a definite part in the ritual of the State. Thousands upon thousands regained a sacred privilege that had seemed lost for ever; they had seen the Sovereign, the supreme lord who to them is not merely the symbol of pomp and state, or the crown and









*Photo. Jenkins.*

*Her Excellency Lady Hardinge of Penshurst, C.I.*



summit of a great political system, but the personification of their ideals and of fundamental principles; the apostle of duty and the commander of more of the faithful than the greatest of the Caliphs. All Indians alike, whether actually present at Delhi or taking part in the local celebrations that were held throughout the country, learnt something new of the meaning of British rule, and felt that India was restored once more. Men were seen at Delhi to embrace one another and to shed tears for joy that the Emperor had appeared. They prostrated themselves on the ground where he had stood, old men were led to the roadside that they might die happy with this blessing upon them, children were lifted up to touch the thrones, that the remainder of their lives might be fortunate. Each had some special sign of love and reverence, and all went by with uncertain lips as though they had been strangely moved.

"Peoples' love and Monarch's duty  
Every thought and deed impelled."

In 1903 the whole of India, "from the Arab Sheikhs of Aden on the west to the Shan Chief of the Mekong on the borders of China," had "felt the thrill of a common loyalty and the inspiration of a single aim," but the wearer of the crown was still almost a myth across the dreaded ocean, and it was only in 1911 that the Empire awakened to the fullness of those personal relationships which alone can prompt the East to think as one man. "It is a matter of intense satisfaction to me," said His Majesty, "to realize how all classes and creeds have joined together in the true-hearted welcome which has been so universally accorded to us. Is it not possible that the same unity and concord may for the future govern the daily relation of their public and private lives? The attainment of this would indeed be a happy outcome of our visit to India."

Their Imperial Majesties' stay in India was necessarily brief, but from beginning to end it was one long triumph, alike for the Empire, the Sovereign, and the people. Its very object made it mainly ceremonial, but in the few brief days and hours of the visit Their Majesties contrived in the intervals of high state business to renew their acquaintance with much more humble things, to hear petitions, to visit the hospitals, to feed the poor and to see the swarming industrial populations of Calcutta and Bombay. Its beneficial results were, and still are, so patent to all that there is no need to pursue the theme further. The work begun by Queen Victoria and continued by King Edward has now been completed by King George, and it will never have to be done again in quite the same sense; but human memories are short, and India will ever hope for a renewal of its impressions and a closer association with the Royal House. King George and Queen Mary have forged the final link of gold, and India is now assured, without a shadow of doubt, of its part in the great Imperial

commonwealth, and of the inherent sympathy and high intentions of the rule which Their Majesties personify. It knows without doubt that it is no longer a mere subordinate and conquered land, but that it is bound by ties of the closest affection and heartfelt allegiance to a monarch who, amid all the multifarious interests and absorbing activities of his great position, has ever watched its welfare with the deepest interest and sought to give it an equal place in the dominions of the Empire; a Sovereign, too, who lives for unity, in the certain knowledge that the brotherhood of his world-wide dominion can only be for the benefit of its members and for the blessing and advantage of untold millions of the human race. And unity is no small thing in a country with alien governors, with forty-three races, with twenty-one languages in everyday use, and where society is still "essentially a congeries of widely separated classes, races, and communities, with divergencies of interests and hereditary sentiment, which for ages have precluded common, active, and local unanimity." The achievement of it is a task which in the words of King Edward himself is "as glorious as was ever committed to rulers and subjects in any State or Empire of recorded time."

King George looked, as he told the University of Calcutta, for "that gradual union and fusion of the culture and aspiration of Europeans and Indians on which the future well-being of India so greatly depends." "Six years ago," he said, "I sent from England to India a message of sympathy. To-day in India I give to India the watchword of hope. On every side, I trace the signs and stirrings of new life. Education has given you hope; and through better and higher education you will build up higher and better hopes."

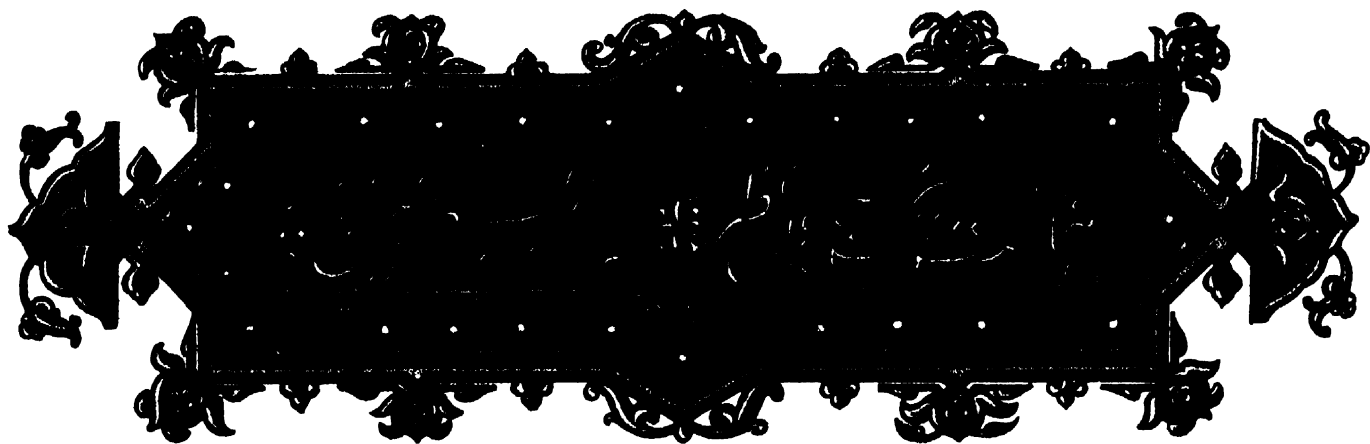
"The Princes and people of India," so ran the spontaneous message which they sent to the Prime Minister of England, "desire to take the opportunity afforded by the conclusion of the Royal Visit to convey to the great English nation an expression of their cordial goodwill and fellowship, also an assurance of their warm attachment to the world-wide Empire of which they form part, and with which their destinies are now indissolubly linked. Their Imperial Majesties' visit to India, so happily conceived and so successfully completed, has produced a profound and ineffaceable impression throughout the country. Their Imperial Majesties, by their gracious demeanour, their unfailing sympathy, and their deep solicitude for the welfare of all classes, have drawn closer the bonds that unite England and India, and have deepened and intensified the traditional feeling of loyalty and devotion to the Throne and person of the Sovereign, which has always characterized the Indian people."

"Conscious of the many blessings which India has derived from her connexion with England, the Princes and people rejoice to tender in person their loyal and loving homage to their Imperial Majesties. They are confident that this great and historic event marks the beginning of a new era, ensuring

greater happiness, prosperity, and progress to the people of India under the ægis of the Crown."

And beyond all this there was a feeling deeper still that could find no expression, but that will ever remain enshrined in the hearts of the millions to whom the Emperor stands for all that is good and great.





## II—THEIR MAJESTIES' VOYAGE

THE King and Queen set out from London for their journey to India on the morning of the 11th November 1911, and they did so amid manifestations of the greatest enthusiasm, for the popular imagination in England had been deeply stirred by the romance and the importance of the project and by the high sense of duty and the zeal for the welfare of the Empire which led Their Majesties to undertake so arduous a task.

"It is our earnest wish," had said the King only a few weeks previously, "that the most distant of our dominions may feel that they are as much within our thought and our care as the heart of the great capital," and nowhere was this sentiment more cordially re-echoed than in the metropolis itself, particularly with regard to India, in which it had maintained a very special interest ever since Queen Elizabeth three hundred years before had granted a charter to the "Governour and Company of Merchants of London trading with the East Indies."

The numbers of well-wishers along the roadway from Buckingham Palace to the station were extraordinarily large, notwithstanding the early hour of ten and the rawness of a typical November frost-mist, through which the sun appeared but fitfully. There was no military display, and the cortège was very simple, but it was not to see a pageant that the people had come out. They did so solely and simply to wish their Majesties God-speed, and to express their sympathy and sense of sacrifice. The sentiment of the nation on this morning was that of the prayer recited daily in the churches of the Empire during the whole time of Their Majesties' absence, a prayer that Divine Providence would "so prosper their journey that it may tend to the increase of goodwill among the peoples of India."

No higher expression of consideration for their Indian fellow-subjects could have been given by the people of Great Britain than that implied in the

departure of the King and the special arrangements for state business in his absence. The Royal Authority had to be put into commission, and this would only have been done with the greatest misgiving had the reasons for the journey not been strong. It was at first suggested that the Queen might be regent while the Sovereign was away, but Her Majesty resolved to accompany the King, and at a Privy Council held on the day before departure, His Majesty was pleased to order the issue of a Warrant under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, appointing Royal Commissioners as follows:

**G**EORGE the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India: To all Archbishops, Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, Bishops, Barons, Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and all other Our faithful Subjects whatsoever to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

Whereas we shall be absent from Our United Kingdom for the purpose of celebrating in Our Indian Dominions the Solemnity of Our Coronation, Know Ye that for divers causes and considerations concerning Us and the tranquillity of Our Realm Us hereunto especially moving We having entire confidence in the fidelity of Our Most Dear Cousin and Counsellor His Royal Highness Prince Arthur Frederick Patrick Albert of Connaught, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of our Royal Victorian Order; Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely beloved Counsellor the Most Reverend Father in God Randall Thomas, by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order; Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor Robert Threshie, Earl Loreburn, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain; and Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor John, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, Member of Our Order of Merit, Lord President of Our Council, of Our most especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, do nominate and appoint Our said Counsellors Prince Arthur of Connaught, Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Loreburn and Viscount Morley, or any two of them in Our said absence to summon and hold on Our behalf Our Privy Council, and to signify thereat Our approval of any matter or thing, to which Our approval in Council is required, and further to do on Our behalf any matter or thing which appears to

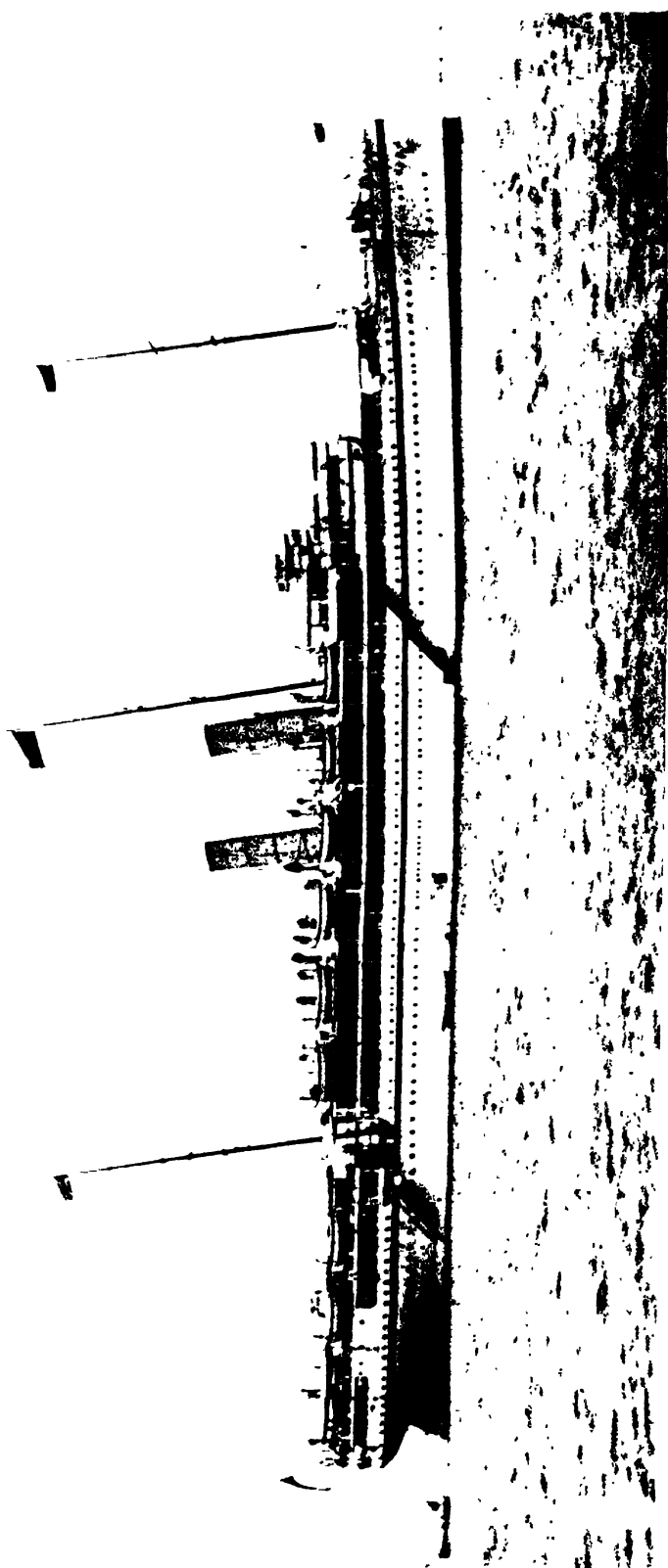


them necessary or expedient to do in Our behalf in the interests of the safety and good government of Our Realm ; save only that they Our said Counsellors Prince Arthur of Connaught, Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Loreburn, and Viscount Morley, shall not, except in accordance with instructions transmitted by Us, dissolve Parliament, or in any manner grant any rank, title, or dignity of the peerage, or act in any matter or thing on which it is signified by Us, or appears to them that Our special approval should be previously obtained ; and for the purpose of these Presents, any instructions transmitted by Us by telegram, or other such means of communication, shall have the same effect as if they were given by Us in writing under Our Sign Manual ; and We further direct that these Presents shall take effect notwithstanding the death or incapacity of any of Our said Counsellors Prince Arthur of Connaught, Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Loreburn, and Viscount Morley, so long as two of those Counsellors remain capable of acting thereunder. Commanding all and singular Archbishops, Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, Bishops, Barons, Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our Officers, Ministers and Subjects that in everything appertaining to the matters aforesaid they be attendant, counselling and helping Our said Counsellors Prince Arthur of Connaught, Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Loreburn, and Viscount Morley as it behoves them, in Witness We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster the Tenth day of November, in the Second Year of Our Reign.

The route taken by Their Majesties was by Constitution Hill, Wellington Place, Grosvenor Place, Grosvenor Gardens, and Buckingham Palace Road to the platform of Victoria Station, and they drove in an open landau with postillions and bay horses, a travelling escort being furnished by the Royal Horse Guards under the command of Major the Lord Tweedmouth. The Prince of Wales and Princess Mary were in the carriage with their parents, and two other carriages followed with the principal members of the suite.

At the station there was a brilliant throng of the highest in the land, to the number of about three hundred, who had come to bid farewell. There were the Members of the Royal Family ; the Ministers, headed by Mr. Asquith, the Premier ; the Diplomatic Corps and others, including the whole of the India Office staff ; and a Guard of Honour of the 2nd Battalion of the



H.M.S. MEDINA.

From Bow.

MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE



*Photo S. p. right*

HIS HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF TECK,  
Silver Stick in Waiting, and Personal Aide-de-Camp.



*Photo Swayne.*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL  
OF DURHAM, K.G.,  
Lord High Steward



*Photo Elliott & Fry.*

THE MOST HONOURABLE THE MARQUESS  
OF CREWE, K.G., G.C.V.O.,  
Secretary of State for India.



*Photo Brooks.*

THE LORD ANNALY,  
Lord in Waiting.



*Photo Brooks.*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD STAM-  
FORDHAM, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,  
K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., I.S.O.,  
Private Secretary.

Coldstream Guards with the Colour and Band of the Regiment, under the command of Major the Honourable L. Hamilton, was mounted opposite the Royal train. The King inspected this Guard, and the Queen meanwhile received a bouquet of flowers from the Lady Gweneth Ponsonby, daughter of the Earl of Bessborough, chairman of the railway, and then, after taking leave of their assembled friends, Their Majesties entered the special train of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, which left at 10.32 a.m. Besides their own family and suite, Their Majesties were accompanied to Portsmouth by Queen Alexandra, the Queen of Norway, the Princess Victoria, and Prince Arthur of Connaught. The train reached Portsmouth Dockyard at half-past twelve, and glided slowly, so that all might see, and amid much cheering from the populace, on to the jetty, decorated with drapery, flags, and crimson cloth, where the ship was berthed. They were greeted by an assembly of high officers, naval, military, and civil, including the Duke of Wellington, acting Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Hampshire, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill and the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, the Naval Commander in Chief at Portsmouth, the flag officers with their personal staffs, the commodores, colonels commandant of the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and the captains and officers of corresponding rank.

A Guard of Honour of two hundred picked seamen from the Royal Naval Barracks and H.M.S. *Excellent*, under the command of Lieutenants H. C. Verner and W. M. Nash, R.N., respectively, was mounted on the jetty, and, after this had been inspected, His Majesty, preceded by Rear Admiral Sir Colin Keppel and followed by the Queen and the Members of the Royal Family, embarked on the *Medina*, which was to be his home for the six thousand miles of sea to India. The moment of his embarkation was dramatic and impressive, the massed bands played the National Anthem, and a thundering Royal salute was fired by the land forts and all the ships of war, each of which was dressed with flags, except those of the escort.

The *Medina* was the newest ship of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and it was but fitting that in journeying to India Their Majesties should patronize this great line of steamers that for nearly fifty years has so wonderfully maintained a regular connexion between England and the East. The vessel, which was only launched on the previous 14th March, was one of 12,358 gross tons and 16,000 indicated horse-power, with twin propellers and reciprocating engines, developing a maximum speed of seventeen knots. She was built by Messrs. Caird and Company, of Greenock, for the ordinary mail service, but specially arranged as a Royal yacht for this her first voyage to India. To transform an ordinary passenger steamer into a floating palace for the monarch of the seas was no small task, but it was splendidly

carried out, and there was not much resemblance, either inside or out, between H.M.S. *Medina*, with her polished decks and smart white paint, with line of blue and gold, and the busy black appearance of the mail-boat that is the weekly link of Empire. Considerable changes of a structural nature had to be carried out, and special suites of rooms were constructed for the use of Their Majesties on the spar deck at the forward end of the dining saloon, the King's being on the port side and the Queen's on the starboard. The arrangements were made under the supervision of Sir John Forsey, Director of Stores at the Admiralty, but their special character and interest were due entirely to Their Majesties' own taste and judgment in the selection of colours and materials. White, with its keynote of cheerfulness, was the principal colour used. The King's rooms were decorated in blue, the sitting-room furniture being of mahogany and that in the bedroom of satinwood inlaid, with a dressing-room *en suite*. The Queen's apartments, which were similar in size and position, were painted white and decorated in green, the furniture being of satinwood throughout. The main feature of these rooms was their refinement and simplicity. Between the two suites was a broad corridor and staircase leading to the music-room above. Two rough-weather cabins, for the use of Their Majesties if necessary, were also fitted up on the starboard side of the spar deck amidships, with upholstery and decorations similar to the others.

For the time the *Medina* was one of His Majesty's ships, commissioned on October 8th for particular service, so her executive command was taken over by the Royal Navy, and a third mast was stepped to enable His Majesty to fly all three flags, which indicate the presence of the Sovereign—the Royal Standard at the main, the Admiralty flag at the fore, and the Union Jack at the mizzen. The whole squadron, consisting of the King's own ship and the four escorting cruisers, was commanded by Rear Admiral Sir Colin Keppel. The *Medina* was commanded by Captain A. E. M. Chatfield, R.N., and had a full complement of seven hundred and thirty-three, there being thirty-two officers and three hundred and sixty petty officers and men of the Royal Navy, four officers and two hundred and six non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Marines, fifty-nine officers and men of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, including one executive officer and a full staff for the engine-room. Their Majesties' personal suite was twenty-two in number, and consisted simply of those members of the Royal Household who were to accompany them through India. In addition to these His Majesty had, to ensure complete co-operation with the authorities in India, appointed to his staff a number of officers of the Indian Service, but they were only to meet him, some on landing at Bombay and others on arrival at Delhi. The principal among them was Brigadier-General R. E. Grimston, who had attended His Majesty on his tour in India as Prince of Wales, and was now appointed Military Secretary to the King; the others were all either officers who had served in the same way



*Photo Downey.*

COMMANDER SIR C. CUST, BART.,  
K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E.

Equerry.



*Photo Brooks.*

CAPTAIN B. GODFREY-FAUSSETT,  
C.V.O., C.M.G.

Equerry.



*Photo Brooks.*

THE HON. SIR DEREK KEPPEL,  
K.C.V.O., C.M.G., C.I.E.

Master of the Household.



*Photo Brooks.*

MAJOR THE LORD CHARLES FITZMAURICE.

Equerry.



*Photo Brooks.*

MAJOR CLIVE WIGRAM, C.S.I., M.V.O.

Equerry and Assistant Private Secretary.

MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE.



*Photo Elliot & Fry.*

MR. F. H. LUCAS, C.B.

Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for India.



*Photo Russell.*

GENERAL SIR H. L. SMITH-DORRIEN,  
G.C.B., D.S.O.

Aide-de-Camp General



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR R. HAVELOCK  
CHARLES, K.C.V.O.

Sergeant-Surgeon.



THE HON. JOHN FORTESCUE.

Historian.



*Photo Brooks.*

MR. G. P. JACOMB HOOD, M.V.O.

Artist.

MEMBERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE.





Sir Francis Bridgeman, and the first Cruiser Squadron, under Rear Admiral Bayly, consisting of ten of the finest battleships and cruisers in the Navy, the battleships *Neptune*, *St. Vincent*, *Vanguard*, *Temeraire*, *Dreadnought*, *Superb*, *Collingwood*, and the cruisers *Indomitable*, *Indefatigable*, and *Invincible*. These ships all saluted and attended Their Majesties down channel, being joined off St. Catherine's Point by the first Destroyer Flotilla, but as night fell they signalled their farewell and put about. The spectacle of this great fleet waiting out at sea was most striking and impressive, a vision of the sea-power of the Empire. Their Majesties experienced very rough weather and suffered much discomfort in the Bay of Biscay, where a strong westerly gale was blowing, but the weather improved south of the Tagus. Two of the escorting ships, indeed, the *Argyll* and the *Natal*, were slightly damaged by the heavy seas in the Bay. On November 13th, a wireless message was received by Their Majesties from the President of Portugal, a country which has a close connexion with the history of India: "Knowing of the passage of Your Majesties in the vicinity of Portuguese waters, I send Your Majesties greetings in my name and in that of an allied nation, at the same time wishing Your Majesties a pleasant voyage and all prosperity"; and, as the *Medina* entered Spanish waters near Gibraltar, a message of affectionate greeting was also received from Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, the latter being the cousin of King George. At five minutes past nine on the evening of the 14th November, instead of four o'clock, which would have been the hour had fair weather been encountered, the *Medina* arrived at Gibraltar, the first great sentinel of Empire on the highway to the East. Their Majesties left again at half-past ten the next morning, the King, in the meantime, having received the Governor, General Sir Archibald Hunter, who had recently served in India in command at Poona, also the Governor of the neighbouring Spanish town of Algeciras and the principal officers of the garrison of Gibraltar and of the Atlantic Fleet, which was assembled in the port under Vice Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. The next five days were smoothly spent in crossing waters that were troubled in another way, for Their Majesties were now within the zone of war between Italy and Turkey; but it was a remarkable testimony of respect to the British Sovereign that although the *Medina* might at any moment have been within earshot of a sea-fight, both belligerents agreed that the passage of the King should be completely peaceful and they made their dispositions accordingly. When Their Majesties had visited India as Prince and Princess of Wales they had witnessed a review at Genoa of the Italian Royal Navy, which was now very differently occupied, but did no less honour to the Royal travellers. The mariners' lights along the course, which the Governments of Italy and Turkey had extinguished, were all temporarily relighted as Their Majesties passed by.

The Royal party had now settled down to the regular routine of the ship life which His Majesty, the Sailor King, had always loved so well; and it may



*Continho*

*His Highness the Sultan of Lahej, K.C.S.I.*



*His Highness the Sultan of Shehr and Mokalla*

be mentioned that throughout the whole voyage neither the King nor the Queen was ever absent from the daily recognition of Divine Providence in the service held each morning on the *Medina*, as on all the ships of the Royal Navy. Port Said, the common point of East and South and West, was reached shortly before six in the evening on the 20th November, and here a longer halt was made than at Gibraltar for the coaling of the ships and for the reception of His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, with whom the King exchanged visits, and Viscount Kitchener, His Majesty's Agent in Egypt. It is interesting to note that the Guards of Honour mounted for the visit of the King were British and Egyptian side by side. At Port Said also Their Majesties were met by His Imperial Highness the Prince Zia-ed-Din Effendi, who brought a letter from the Sultan of Turkey, which ran as follows:

"I take advantage of the occasion of Your Majesty's departure for India to send my son as the bearer of a letter to Your Majesty. My son is charged to present my salutations and good wishes to Your Majesty as a token of my heartfelt friendship and of the sentiments I entertain for Your Majesty and for England's greatness. I beg you to believe that my son will express to Your Majesty my own feelings in the wish that the relations between our two countries may ever remain friendly. I beg Your Majesty to accept the assurance of my entire devotion to Your Majesty and the Queen."

A telegraphic message was also received at Port Said from His Majesty the King of Italy.

The ship left the port at six in the morning on the 22nd November, passing through the Suez Canal, which was guarded throughout by Egyptian troops and camel patrols, and reaching Suez, where a halt of only a few minutes was made, at seven in the evening. Their Majesties were now in waters which were for the first time traversed by a reigning Sovereign from the West. The *Medina*, escorted only by H.M.S. *Argyll*, the remaining ships having preceded her to Aden to take in coal, was still within the zone of war, for the Italian Navy was operating along the coast-line of Arabia. The King of Italy's commanders, however, courteously postponed the bombardment of Mokha and Sheikh Said until Their Majesties had passed out of the Red Sea. The weather was calm and comparatively cool throughout the whole four days, and the barren rocks of Aden—the earliest territorial acquisition of the Crown in the reign of Queen Victoria, having been taken in 1839—were sighted at quarter to ten on the 27th November, the *Medina* dropping anchor at quarter-past eleven in the morning. Here all had been excitement from a very early hour, for the landing of the Sovereign was an event without a precedent. As the ship came to her moorings the fact that Indian territory had been reached was signaled by the Imperial salute from the shore battery and the warships in the harbour, which included H.M.S. *Royal Arthur*.

To the traveller in the East the gaunt, grim hills of Aden are a familiar scene, with their foreground of white sails and cheerful-looking buildings, but on this special morning everything seemed changed, and the human element alone claimed all attention. The ships were gaily dressed, and the foreshore and lower hills, which were aflame with festoons, seemed also alive with people, an excited moving populace of all the ancient races—Turks, Persians, Egyptians, Armenians, Jews and Greeks, Abyssinians, Soudanese, Arabs, and Somalis—animated by the single desire to see the great King and Queen, of whom every one had heard. The very elements, too, most unpropitious the previous night, now assisted in the greeting, the clouds giving place to brilliant sunshine and pleasant, cooling breezes. Shortly after the *Medina's* arrival, the Resident, Major-General James Bell, with the officers of his staff, went on board the ship and was received by the King-Emperor, who marked his sense of the special nature of the occasion by creating this officer then and there a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. After luncheon Their Majesties went ashore and were received on the Prince of Wales's Pier (so named after his late Majesty King Edward, who landed at the same spot in 1875) by the Resident and all the principal military and political officers, the consuls and the members of the Port Trust. These were presented by the Resident, Their Majesties standing under the tastefully decorated shelter on the pier and shaking hands with all. The Emperor wore the white uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, with the ribbon of the Star of India.

The Guard of Honour of the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, under the command of Captain D. H. F. Grant, which was mounted on the east side of the jetty, was inspected by His Majesty, and a detachment of the Aden troop, a corps raised in 1867 to afford protection to convoys coming into Aden with provisions, was drawn up on the left, the front rank being composed of lancers and the rear rank of riflemen on camels. After the presentations, Their Majesties entered a carriage belonging to Mr. Cowasjee Dinshaw, one of the principal merchants of the place, and drove with an escort of the Aden troop to a pavilion erected on the Oval, at the foot of the Queen Victoria statue unveiled by the Duke of Connaught in 1906. They were attended by two equerries on horseback and the rest of the suite in following carriages. The road along which they passed was lined by the 1st Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, the 108th Infantry, the Aden Section, and the 23rd Fortress Company of the 3rd Sappers and Miners and the Royal Garrison Artillery. After the Guard of Honour of the 108th Infantry under the command of Captain R. de W. Waller had been inspected, Their Majesties took their seats on the splendid gilded thrones that were placed at the foot of the statue, facing the sea. As they entered, a choir of Parsi children in front of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw's premises at Tawahi sang the National Anthem in Gujarati. The principal citizens of Aden were assembled in the pavilion, and the Chairman of the Reception Committee,

Mr. Hormusjee Cowasjee Dinshaw, then read the following address of welcome :

“ May it please Your Imperial Majesties :

We, the residents of Aden, crave permission to offer our most hearty, sincere and loyal welcome to your MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY and our MOST GRACIOUS QUEEN-EMPRESS MARY on the occasion of the landing of your Imperial Majesties on these our shores, the threshold of Your Imperial Majesty's mighty Indian Empire.

Our hearts are overjoyed to see Your Imperial Majesties in person, an event unique in the history of Aden, and one which will ever be remembered with feelings of pride and loyalty in the years to come, and from posterity to posterity.

We, in common with the numerous peoples of Your Imperial Majesty's vast Empire and Dominions over the Seas, earnestly hope that the recent Coronation of Your Imperial Majesty will usher in an era of extended prosperity and peace for the great and glorious British Empire.

It is a matter of the greatest consolation and gratification to us to feel that by Divine Grace we are favoured in the person of Your Imperial Majesty with a King-Emperor coming from a long and distinguished lineage, a ruler wise, kind, and sympathetic to the subjects over whom Divine Providence has destined Your Imperial Majesty to rule.

It will always be our most cherished ambition to prove ourselves worthy subjects of Your Imperial Majesty, and each one of us shall use our individual and highest endeavour, by our devotion and loyalty, to assist the British Empire to grow stronger and become solidified with the march of years.

Permit us also graciously to offer our heartfelt and sincere congratulations to our MOST BELOVED QUEEN-EMPRESS MARY, who by her kind and genial nature, on the occasion of Her Imperial Majesty's previous visit to our shores, has left indelible marks of gratitude in our hearts.

In conclusion, we devoutly pray to the Almighty to shower His choicest blessings on Your Imperial Majesty, the Queen-Empress Mary, and all the Royal Family, and may Your Majesty's reign forge a further and unbreakable link connecting the long chain of British rulers of the past with those to come, and may the British flag continue to hold supremacy over land and sea as it has done in the years that have gone.

Wishing Your Imperial Majesties and the Royal Family a long and glorious life, replete with joy and happiness, we have the great honour to subscribe ourselves Your Imperial Majesties' most faithful and devoted subjects.”

This address, in a silver casket, was then offered to the King-Emperor by Messrs. Kaikobad Cowasjee and Ibrahim Abdulla Hasan Ali, after which His Majesty was graciously pleased to reply. He said:

**I** THANK you on behalf of the Queen-Empress and myself for your loyal address and for the hearty welcome which the community of Aden has extended to us. No more fitting spot could have been chosen on which to give expression to these sentiments of personal attachment and devotion than here beneath the statue of my beloved grandmother Queen Victoria. It is a source of sincere pleasure to us to revisit your famous port and to assure ourselves of its continued progress and prosperity. Situated on the threshold of India and forming a connecting link between Great Britain and Australia, Aden is an object of peculiar interest to the whole of the British Empire, and the responsibilities which you, as citizens of the Empire, are called upon to assume become year by year of increasing importance.

I have learned with great satisfaction of the steady expansion of your trade, and I trust that the investigations which are now in course of completion will give you the improved and adequate water-supply upon which your health and well-being so largely depend. The reclamations which have been made upon the sea-face will afford space which you require for the development of your town, and I rejoice at the decision to reserve a portion of them for a recreation ground.

We thank you for your good wishes and prayers on our behalf, and you may rest assured that we shall ever feel the warmest interest in your welfare and prosperity."

The Resident next presented the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Hormusjee Cowasjee Dinshaw, and seven members of the Committee, Mr. Banin Menahem Messa, Mr. Abdulabhai Lalljee, Sheikh Mahomed Bazara, Mr. H. Adamali, Mr. Meghji Permanand, Khan Sahib Behramji Sorabji Mehta, most of them members of the enterprising mercantile community of Bombay, which is invariably represented on the fringe of Empire, in this region of the world. Even in the days of the prophet Ezekiel, the men of Aden were known as "merchants in all sorts of things, and in blue cloths, broidered work; and in chests of rich apparel." Two of the members of this Committee, Mr. Dinshaw and Mr. Messa, were afterwards, at the time of Their Majesties' departure from



*The Fadthli Sultan*



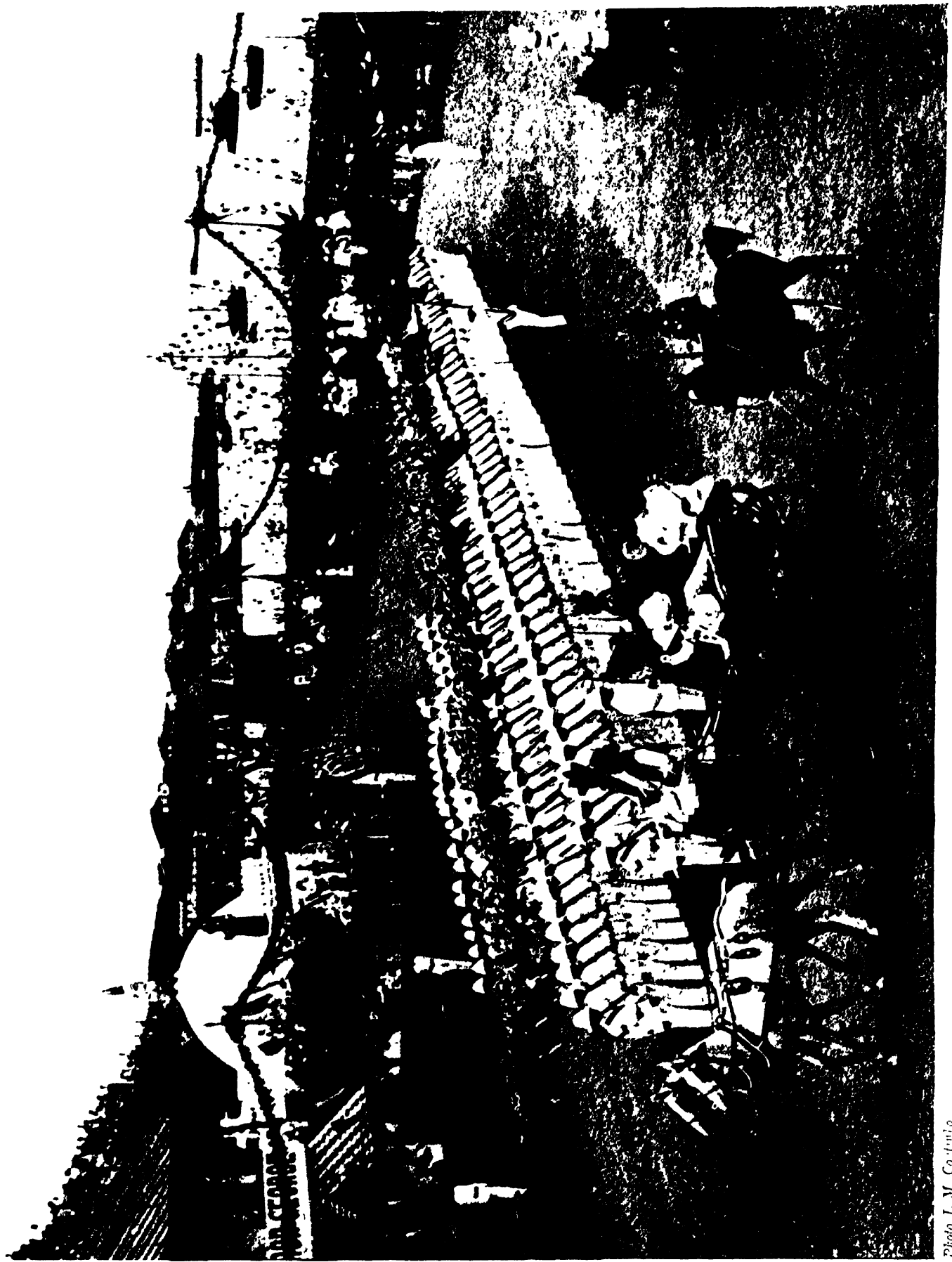


Photo J. M. Co. 4-10-10

THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES AT ADEN.

India on the return journey, appointed members of the Royal Victorian Order. After a choir of Arab children grouped near the Union Club had sung the National Anthem in the native tongue, Their Majesties drove round the Crescent to the Residency, where a Guard of Honour of the 52nd Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery, under the command of Captain W. W. Leggett, was mounted. Here they took tea on the terrace and held a reception of the principal inhabitants of Aden. In the course of this the Queen-Empress accepted from Mr. Menahem Messa, the head of the local Jewish community, an ostrich feather boa for herself and a number of feathers for the Princess Mary. Shortly after five o'clock Their Majesties returned to the Prince of Wales's pier, where the Resident and his staff took their leave, and as Their Majesties sped across the harbour to board their ship once more, the wondrous glow of Aden sunset suddenly gave place to a brilliant illumination of the foreshore and the principal buildings, which was carried out on a general scheme and provided by public subscription. The *Medina* left at six o'clock, escorted by the four cruisers, and as the ship reached the eastern limits of the Aden protectorate the Resident sent a radiograph message: "To bid Their Majesties farewell and a pleasant voyage," to which Lord Stamfordham replied: "Their Majesties thank you for your kind message and good wishes." A commemorative medallion in honour of the visit to Aden was struck by the Sultan of Lahej.

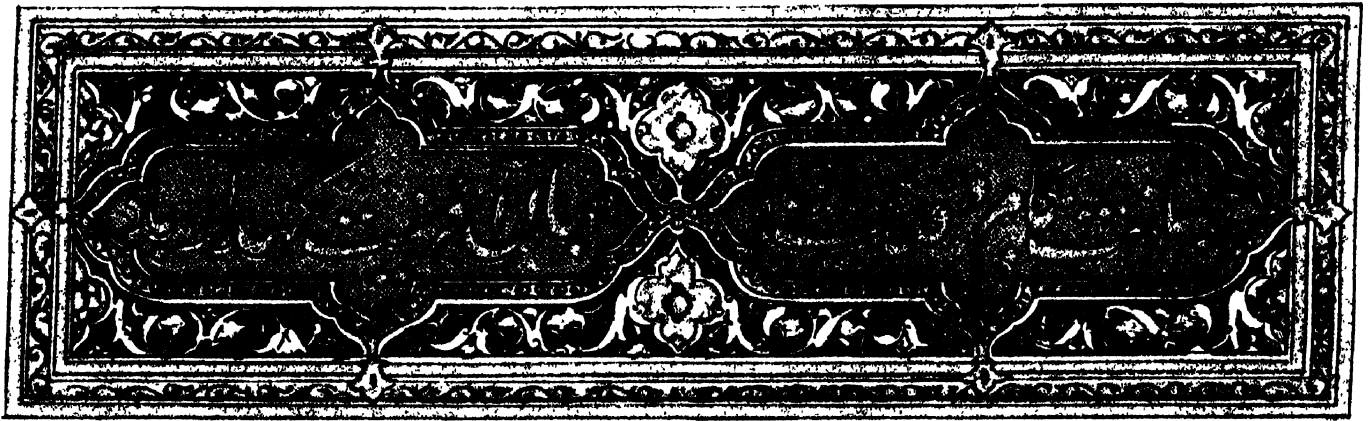
At Aden also the first messages from expectant India were received. There was one from the Governor-General: "With my humble duty on behalf of India, I beg respectfully to welcome Your Imperial Majesties on your arrival in Indian waters and Indian territory. India with the deepest loyalty awaits with eager expectation the safe arrival of its Emperor and Empress." The reply to this was from His Majesty himself:

"**T**HE Queen-Empress and I sincerely thank you and the people of India for the hearty greetings which you have sent us on our entering Indian waters. We look forward with the utmost pleasure to our arrival and to seeing you on Saturday."

Another message came from the Governor of Bombay, of whose administration Aden forms a part: "The government and people of Bombay Presidency humbly tender to Your Majesties a most loyal and hearty welcome to Bombay territory." To this His Majesty replied:

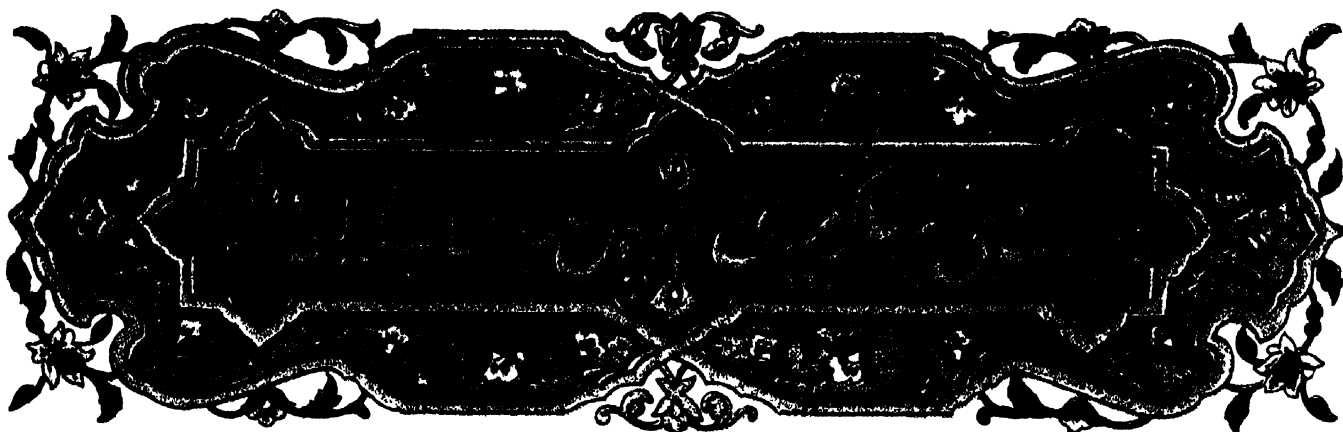
"**T**HE Queen-Empress and I sincerely thank you and the people of the Bombay Presidency for your kind message of welcome, which we much appreciate."

These messages, and the nearness of the advent which they presaged, sent a thrill of deep emotion through the length and breadth of India, the people of which could hardly realize that their great anticipations were so soon to be fulfilled. During those five days between Aden and Bombay the hearts of India beat as one with the tensest expectation and with a strong sense of the inadequacy of any welcome that could be given to express the common gratitude.



MAHI

Symbol of the Sovereignty of the Sea



### III—THE GATEWAY OF INDIA

BOMBAY, the port selected for the honour of 'Their Majesties' arrival, has in more senses than one earned the title of the Gateway of India. It was the first possession of the British Crown in India two hundred and fifty years ago, and it has seen the landing of two successive heirs to that Crown within the last half-century. It is now also the terminus for the great steamship lines that link up East and West, and as a modern city, with manufactures of its own, it has a special character of eastern West and western East that makes it obviously the portal of transition. Nowhere in the East has contact with the West produced more remarkable results. For a long period, notwithstanding its extraordinarily favourable position as regards the rest of India and the fact that in the first decade of the eighteenth century it became the headquarters of the East India Company, it remained a settlement of very modest dimensions, with trade in dried fish and coconuts. But in the middle of the nineteenth century, with the development of communications, it commenced the rapid and wonderful growth which has now made it, with nearly a million inhabitants, second only to Calcutta in population, and, in some ways, perhaps the most splendid city in India, with its world-wide trading interests, its magnificent public buildings, and its unrivalled scenery and harbours. The Bombay of to-day is scarcely recognizable even as the same which King Edward saw not forty years before ; but it still preserves the wondrous atmosphere and colour of the East.

Busy and swarming with life as the city always is, it had never displayed such intensity of interest, wonder and deep feeling, as on the morning of the 2nd December 1911. The arrival of the Sovereign was an event that made an extraordinary appeal to the imagination of all classes of the people. The day before had been Queen Alexandra's birthday, the ceremonies in honour of which added not a little to the expectations and excitement of the multitude. The open spaces round Bombay were occupied by the troops who had come for duty

in the pageants, and for many days thousands of people, men, women, and children, had been pouring in by rail and road from all parts of the Presidency and beyond. The streets were therefore already packed long before sunrise with a gay, good-natured throng, which presented an almost inexhaustible variety of human types and brilliant costumes, flowing along in a seething tide towards the harbour. The life and movement in the streets were indescribable. Whole families could be seen hastening to secure places which would ensure a view of the procession, fathers carrying their sons on their shoulders, and mothers with the last-born on the hip and a bundle of food on the head, all dressed in their best and excitedly hailing their friends. In this way, by eight o'clock, at which hour the official day began, every available point of vantage had been occupied. Shortly after three guns announced that the Emperor's ship had been sighted from the South-West Prongs lighthouse, and all eyes were then turned seaward.

The excitement of the city was not reflected in the elements. The sea was one of burnished brass, only occasionally ruffled by the lightest of breezes, and the land was wrapped in a soft mist, an ominous presage of heat to come. But splashes of bright colour were not wanting, for every vessel in the harbour was gaily dressed from stem to stern. Among these were the flagship of the East India Station, H.M.S. *Highflyer*, as well as H.M.S. *Sphinx* and *Fox*, freshly come from operations against gun-runners in the Persian Gulf. The stately procession was at first only a tiny smudge of smoke far out on the horizon, but soon the white *Medina* herself could be descried leading the four great cruisers, which kept perfect interval behind. Slowly and silently the squadron entered the harbour, and about half-past nine the *Medina* dropped her anchor some two and a half miles from the shore, to the eastward of the Middle Ground. At this instant the completion of the journey was signaled by an Imperial salute from all the warships then in port, led by the *Highflyer*.

The *Medina* was immediately surrounded by a swarm of launches, which passed busily about, one of them conveying on board Brigadier-General Grimston and seven of the officers specially attached to Their Majesties' suite during the tour in India: Major H. R. Stockley, R.E., of the 1st Sappers and Miners; Major E. D. Money, of the 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles; Captain R. Hogg, of the 39th King George's Own Central India Horse—all of whom were assistant military secretaries to the King—and Majors L. O. Graeme, of the Cameron Highlanders, and G. G. P. Humphreys, of the 127th Queen Mary's Own Baluch Light Infantry; also Captains B. S. Grissell, of the Norfolk Regiment, and L. F. Ashburner of the Royal Fusiliers, extra aides-de-camp to the King. Shortly after half-past ten the Governor-General, who had arrived the night before by special train from Delhi and was a guest of Sir George Clarke at Government House, went on board from the Apollo Bandar, attended by the Naval Commander in Chief and the Director of the Royal



*Photo Lafayette.*

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF  
DEVONSHIRE.

Mistress of the Robes.



*Photo Bassano.*

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.C.V.O.

Lord Chamberlain.



*Photo Bullingham.*

THE COUNTESS OF SHAFTESBURY.

Lady of the Bedchamber.



*Photo Elliott & Fry.*

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR STUART BEATSON,  
K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Equerry and Private Secretary.



THE HON. VENETIA BARING.

Maid of Honour.



*Photo Bremner.*

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. D. WATSON,  
C.I.E., M.V.O.

Extra Equerry.

MEMBERS OF HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S SUITE



*Photo Bourne & Shepherd.*  
**THE HON. SIR BASIL  
 SCOTT.**  
 Chief Justice of Bombay



*Photo Bhedwar*  
**SIR PHEROZESHAH MEHTA,**  
 K.C.I.E.  
 President of the Bombay Municipal  
 Corporation.



*Photo Bourne & Shepherd*  
**HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE SYDENHAM CLARKE**  
 G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., R.E.  
 Governor of Bombay



*Photo Bourne & Shepherd.*  
**SIR SHAPURJI BURJORJI BROACHA.**  
 Sheriff of Bombay.



*Photo Metzler.*  
**SIR R. A. LAMB, K.C.S.I., C.I.E**  
 Member of the Bombay Council.

Indian Marine, and was received in audience by Their Majesties at 10.45 a.m., staying on board for luncheon. The King-Emperor had already, on the 25th November, issued his Command "that the powers, duties, and position of the Governor-General shall remain unaffected during His Majesty's visit to India." His Majesty next received the Naval Commander in Chief, the Director of the Royal Indian Marine, and the Captains of the warships at Bombay, and at 11.15 the Governor of Bombay also went on board, and was presented by the Governor-General. With him were the Chief Justice of Bombay, the Bishop of Bombay, the members of the Governor's Council, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and the General Officer Commanding the 6th (Poona) Division of the Army, all of whom were presented by the Governor, and returned with him to land soon afterwards.

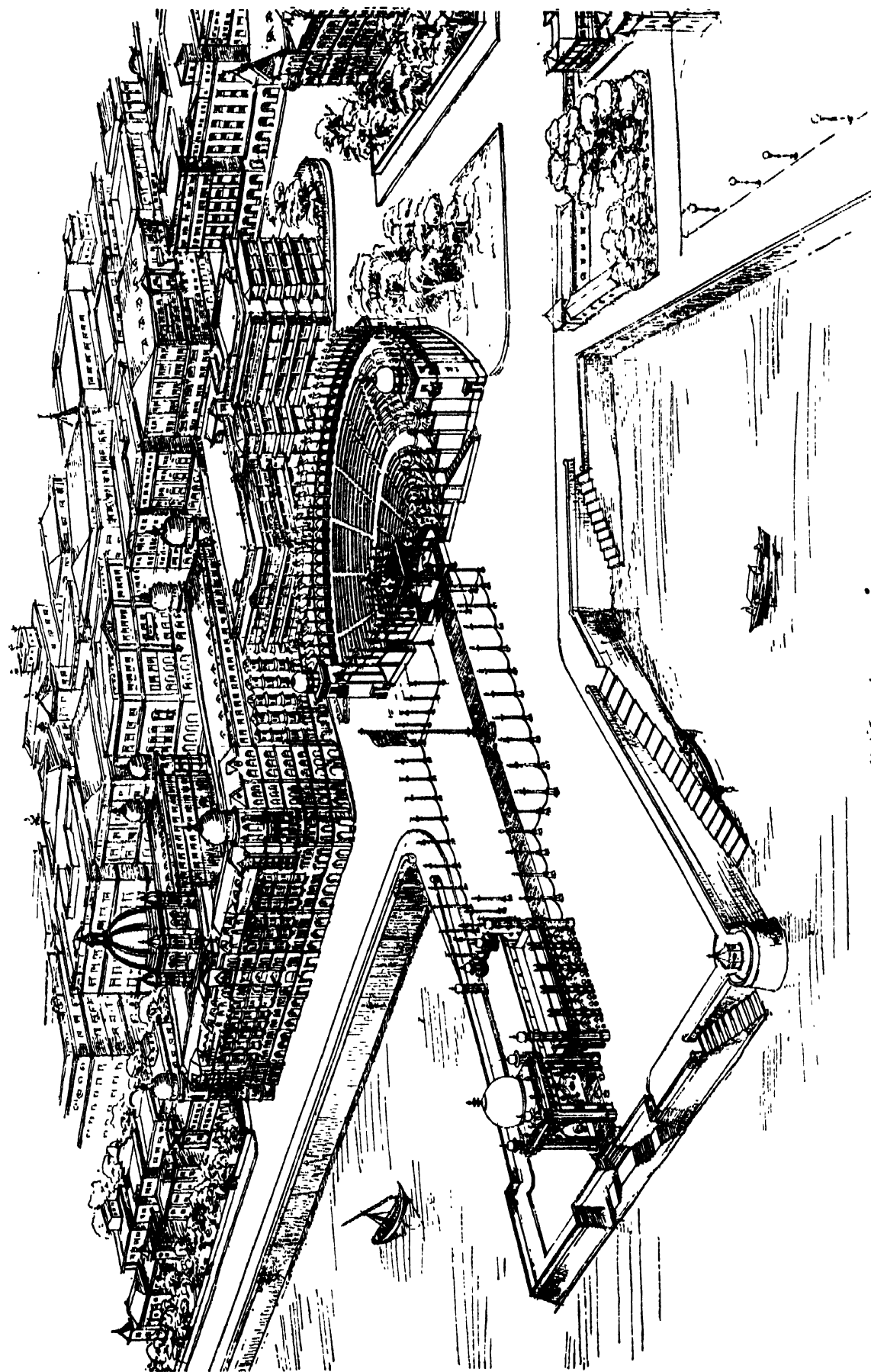
Meanwhile along the foreshore thousands on thousands of enthusiastic faces awaited a sight of Their Majesties, and the crowd evinced its feelings by loud exclamations most unusual among orientals. At the Apollo Bandar, where Their Majesties would land, an actual "Gateway of India" was erected in the form of a graceful white pavilion in the Saracenic style, consisting of a domed porch, a central nave and two side aisles, with gold-topped minarets. This was erected just above the pier-head steps, and inland from it, at a distance of two hundred and twenty-five feet, was another smaller pavilion surrounded by a bright display of banners emblematical of the British Dominions and surmounted by a Royal blue silk canopy and an Imperial crown. The latter pavilion was for the thrones, which faced landwards towards a semicircular amphitheatre designed to seat three thousand people. This was two hundred and forty feet across, with thirty-three tiers of seats rising twenty-four feet from the ground: its walling and its towers were white relieved with gold, and the seating and steps were of cloth dyed a soft green tone. All the arches of the pavilions and the amphitheatre were festooned with garlands and baskets of natural flowers. The space between the two pavilions, which was sprinkled with dazzling white sand, was lined on either side with high white Saracenic columns, each bearing a gilt lion. A red-carpeted pathway lay along the centre, on the south side of which was a Guard of Honour of the Royal Navy from the ships of the East India station, under the command of Lieut. L. V. Wells, R.N. The band of the Norfolk Regiment was behind this, and opposite to it on the other side was a flagstaff for the Royal Standard. The whole scheme was most effective and in admirable harmony with its surroundings. It was designed and carried out by Mr. G. Wittet, Consulting Architect to the Government of Bombay, who was also responsible for the design of the magnificent thrones in the pavilion. These were of gilded teak-wood, nine feet high, the backs bearing the Royal arms in the centre: the upholstery was of cloth-of-gold embroidered with the Imperial cipher and specially woven at Surat. The pavilion at the pierhead was a purely temporary



structure at the time, but it has since been decided, thanks to the munificence of a few private citizens of Bombay, with the co-operation of the Imperial and local Governments, to erect on the same spot a permanent pavilion as an ornament to the city and a perpetual reminder of the brilliant and ever-memorable scene in which it first took part.

As the day wore on the early promise of oppressive heat was fulfilled, the temperature rising far above the normal for the season of the year, but about three in the afternoon, by which time the whole company at the Bandar had assembled, some relief was afforded by the appearance of light clouds. The Governor arrived at half-past three, and shortly before four o'clock the Governor-General returned from the *Medina* to receive Their Majesties at the Bandar with Sir George Clarke and the high officials of Bombay. The anticipation of the multitude rose to the highest point of tension at about a quarter to four, when Their Majesties were due to leave the *Medina*, and soon a puff of smoke from the *Defence*, followed in an instant by others from the whole fleet and the land forts, announced that they had actually started. A few minutes later a small dark blue launch with gleaming brass appointments, proudly bearing the Royal Standard at the bow and the White Ensign at the stern, ploughed her way rapidly through the brilliant opal water towards the shore, between a double line of patrol boats which saluted with raised oars as she passed. In a few minutes she reached the steps of the pier, and for the first time in history a British monarch had set foot on Indian soil. The Governor-General, in white uniform of the Indian political service, was in attendance at the foot of the stairs, which His Majesty himself was the first to ascend, closely followed by the Queen-Empress, the Governor-General, and the suite in attendance. His Majesty had a happy, eager air which clearly showed his pleasure at being once again in India. He was wearing the white uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, with the ribbon of the Star of India and the stars of the Garter and the two Indian Orders. Her Majesty also wore the ribbon of the Garter.

At the top of the steps in the pavilion were assembled the Governor of Bombay and Lady Clarke, the Naval Commander in Chief and Lady Slade, together with the principal local officials and a few Ruling Chiefs. These were all presented by the Governor, and then the King-Emperor stepped out to inspect the Guard of Honour, after which a long white procession, in which the Sovereign and his consort could only be distinguished from a distance by the red and gold of the *suraj-mukhi* and *chatr*, moved to the throne *dais* facing the amphitheatre. Here Their Majesties took their seats, graciously acknowledging the vociferous cheering with which they were received not only by the representative gathering in the amphitheatre itself, but also by the multitudes outside, who shouted aloud for joy that their hopes were now being realized. The Governor-General and other high officers of state stood on the



THE RECEPTION AMPHITHEATRE, BOMBAY

right side of the thrones, the Governor of Bombay and the ladies of the Empress on the left. The other members of the suite were grouped behind, and the ships and sparkling water in the background gave the scene a special character of its own.

The President of the Municipal Corporation, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, who had held the same high office on the occasion of the Royal visit in 1905, then advanced with a deep obeisance to the front of the *dais* and, with His Majesty's permission, read the following address :

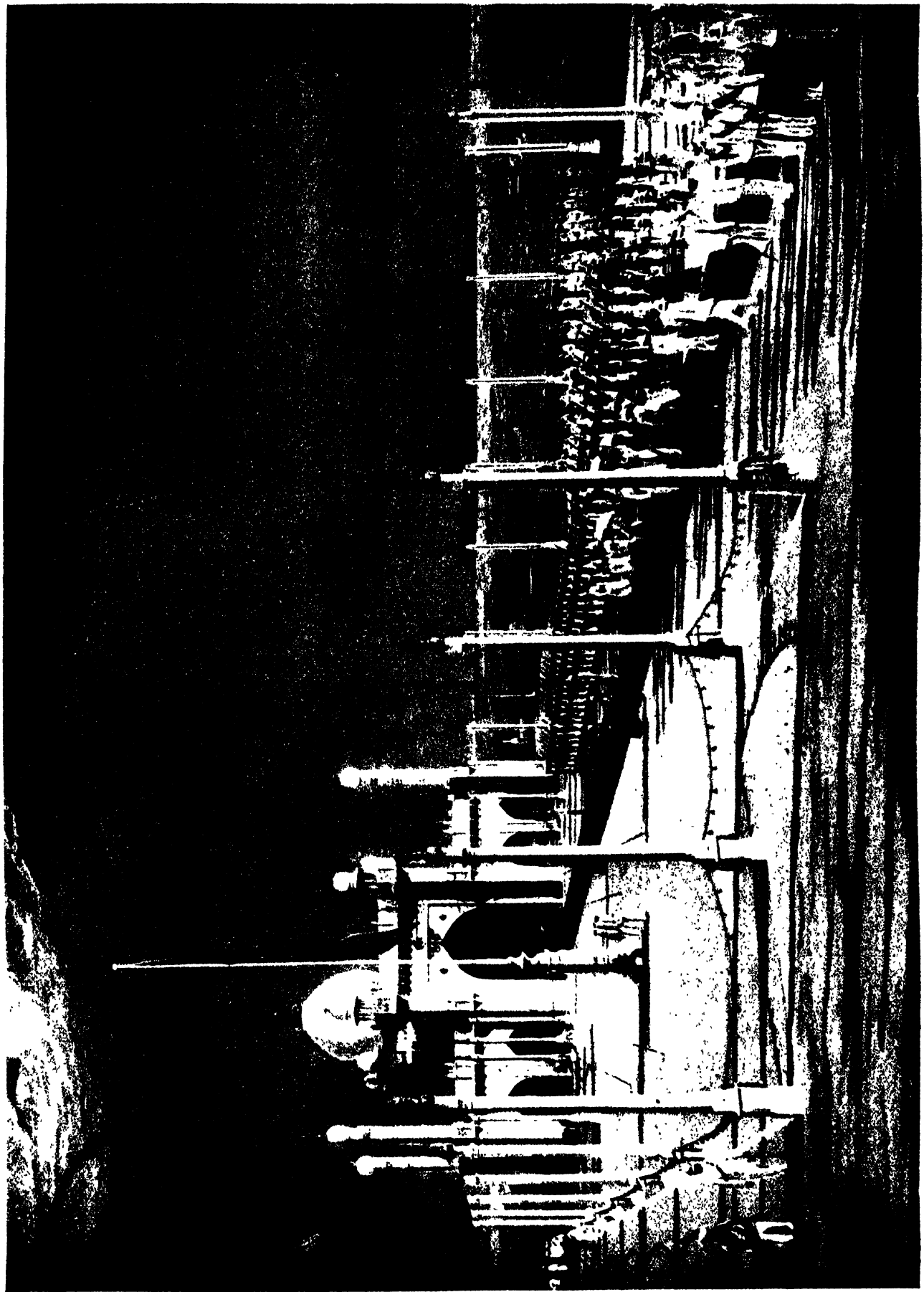
“ May it please Your Imperial Majesty,

We, the President and the Members of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Bombay, crave leave to approach Your Imperial Majesties, on your landing on the shores of India, with an address expressing the deep-rooted loyalty of the city and its pride and joy in this auspicious occurrence.

The occasion is one unprecedented in the annals not merely of India but of the world-wide Empire over which Your Imperial Majesty rules. Never before has the Sovereign left the centre of the Empire to visit his dominions over the seas. We recognize the significance of the event ; we realize that your determination to announce your Coronation in person to your Indian peoples is a proclamation of the great place of India in the Empire and in the sympathies of the Royal House, and a demonstration that the Crown is the living bond uniting many different races in different climes under the flag which stands for ideals of justice, toleration, and progress.

We claim that our city has a peculiar title to the honour of being the first in India wherein the King-Emperor sets foot. The dower of a Royal alliance, this city represents no chance settlement acquired by purchase from petty Chiefs, or selected by merchants fugitive from other centres. Its importance and future greatness were foreseen by the sagacity of statesmen, and its acquisition by a Treaty of State constitutes the first intervention by the Royal Government of England in the administration of the land of India. We proudly claim that the high hopes entertained by the statesmen who acquired the island, and by the Governors who founded and administered the city, have met with rich fulfilment, and that this city constitutes the strongest link between the civilizations of the East and West, which it has ever been the aim of the British Government to weld into one harmonious system.

We remember with joy that Your Imperial Majesty is no stranger in our midst. Six years ago, when you came among us as Prince of Wales, you spared no pains to become acquainted with our people and problems, our arts and industries. We rejoice to think that, since your visit, a steady advance has been made in the realization of high civic ideals. The natural vicissitudes of a commercial and industrial centre have affected, but not retarded, a material progress which has gone hand in hand with a lively desire to ameliorate the



THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES LANDINGS AT BOMBAY



conditions under which our poorer citizens live, and to develop the natural advantages of the island. We rejoice to think that Bombay is broad-based upon the firmest of foundations in being united within itself, and that the diverse races and classes, whom we represent, are actuated by a strong sense of common citizenship.

We welcome once more the gracious presence of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress. The people of India, regarding Her Imperial Majesty as the lofty embodiment of the highest ideals of family life, will recognize, with renewed feelings of gratitude and affection, Her Imperial Majesty's interest in them as evinced by this second visit to their shores.

The advent of Your Imperial Majesty as a visible indication of your assumption of the sovereignty of the Empire cannot fail to leave an indelible impression on the hearts of your Indian subjects. It is our fervent prayer that the reign of Your Imperial Majesty, fortified by a knowledge of the Indian people, instinct with sympathy for them in their sorrows, no less than in their joys, and imbued with a love for them inherited from your revered predecessors, may be fraught with the richest blessings for all united under the Imperial Crown."

Sir Pherozeshah then offered the address to His Majesty in a silver casket that was brought up by Mr. Cadell and Mr. Masani, respectively Municipal Commissioner and Secretary. This casket was a handsome piece of workmanship with decorations symbolical of the various races composing the city, the base representing the Parsis, a compliment to the commercial and financial genius of this prosperous community to which Bombay owes so much. Lady Mehta, in the picturesque costume of her race, then came forward and offered a bouquet of pink and white orchids to the Queen-Empress, who graciously accepted it, after which the members of the Municipal Corporation, seventy in number, who during the address had been standing in a semicircle before the *dais*, were presented by their president.

His Majesty then rose, and in a clear, impressive voice, read the following reply :

"**Y**OU have rightly said that I am no stranger among you, and I can heartily respond that I feel myself no stranger in your beautiful city. Six years ago I arrived indeed as a newcomer; but the recollection of your cordial and sympathetic greeting is still fresh in my memory. The wondrous aspect disclosed by the approach to your shores, the first glimpse of the palms, rising as it were from the bosom of the sea, have not been forgotten, and have lost none of their fascination for me. From Bombay I set forth in 1905, encouraged by your affectionate welcome, to traverse at any rate a part of this vast country,

and to strive to gain some knowledge of its people. Such knowledge as I acquired could not but deepen my sympathy with all races and creeds, and when through the lamented death of my beloved father I was called to the Throne of my ancestors, one of my first and most earnest desires was to revisit my good subjects in India.

It is with feelings of no common emotion that I find myself here again to-day with the Queen-Empress at my side and that desire fulfilled. And I come with a heart full of gratitude that the anxiety due to a threatened scarcity in certain areas of the Presidency has, thanks to favourable and opportune rains, been happily dispelled, and that there is every prospect of your land being blessed with a good spring harvest.

Your eloquent address has recalled to me that Bombay was once the dowry of a British Queen. As such Humphrey Cook took it over two hundred and fifty years ago, a mere fishing village. You, gentlemen, and your forerunners have made it a jewel of the British Crown. I see again with joy the rich setting of its beautiful and stately buildings; I note also the less conspicuous but also more profitable improvements lately effected; but, above all, I recognize with pride your efforts to heighten what must always be the supreme lustre of such a jewel as this, the peace, happiness, and prosperity of all classes of the citizens.

From my heart I thank you for the generous reception accorded to the Queen-Empress and myself to-day.

We earnestly pray that God's blessing may rest upon our Indian Empire, and that peace and prosperity may be ever vouchsafed to its people."

The Emperor's gracious words were audible to many more than the privileged persons bidden to the amphitheatre, and they met with a most enthusiastic reception, in acknowledgment of which His Majesty saluted repeatedly. Their Majesties' carriage, a semi-state landau with postilions and six horses, on which the *chatr* and *suraj-mukhi* were carried, was then brought up on the road behind the thrones.

The procession for the Imperial progress through the city had already been formed up on the roadways outside. It was about a mile long and was headed by an English police officer, with two mounted Indian constables. Next came the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General of the Bombay Brigade, Major H. A. V. Cummins, followed by two troopers, and then a non-commissioned officer of the 7th Dragoon Guards. These were followed by a squadron of the same regiment with its band. Y battery of Royal Horse Artillery came next, followed by the remainder of the Dragoons, making up the whole regiment,

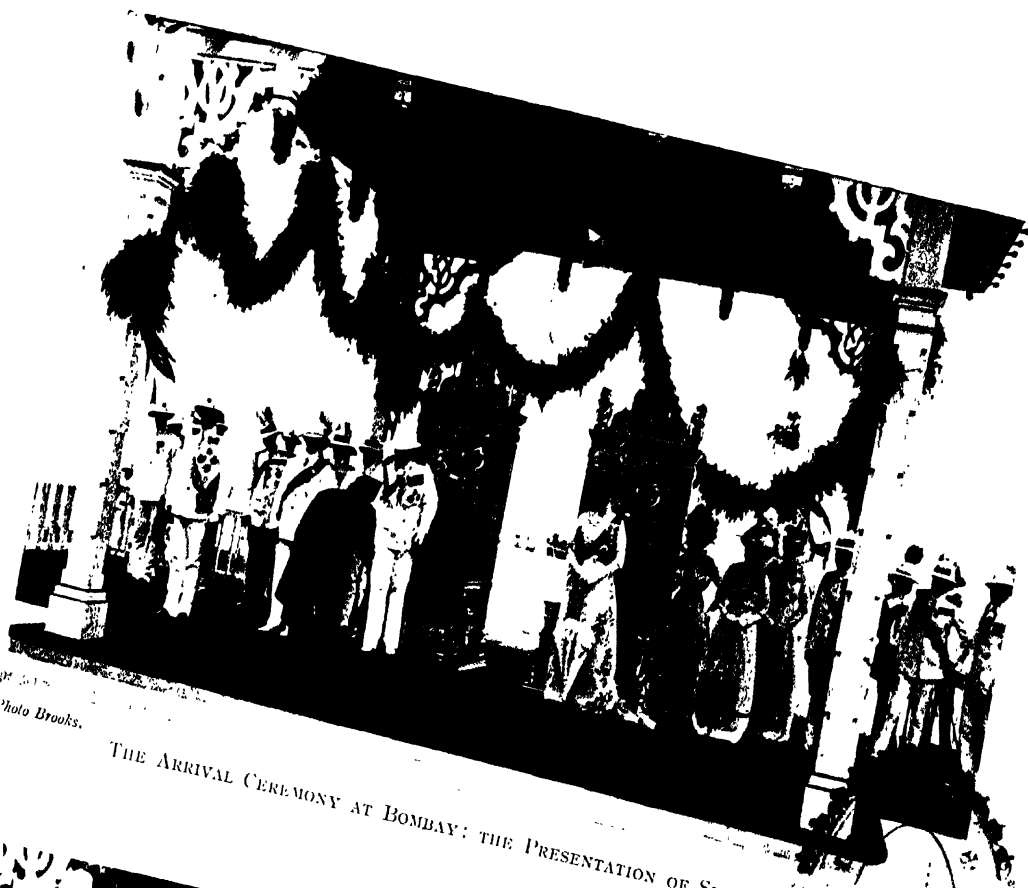


Photo Brooks.

THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT BOMBAY: THE PRESENTATION OF SIR P. MEHTA.

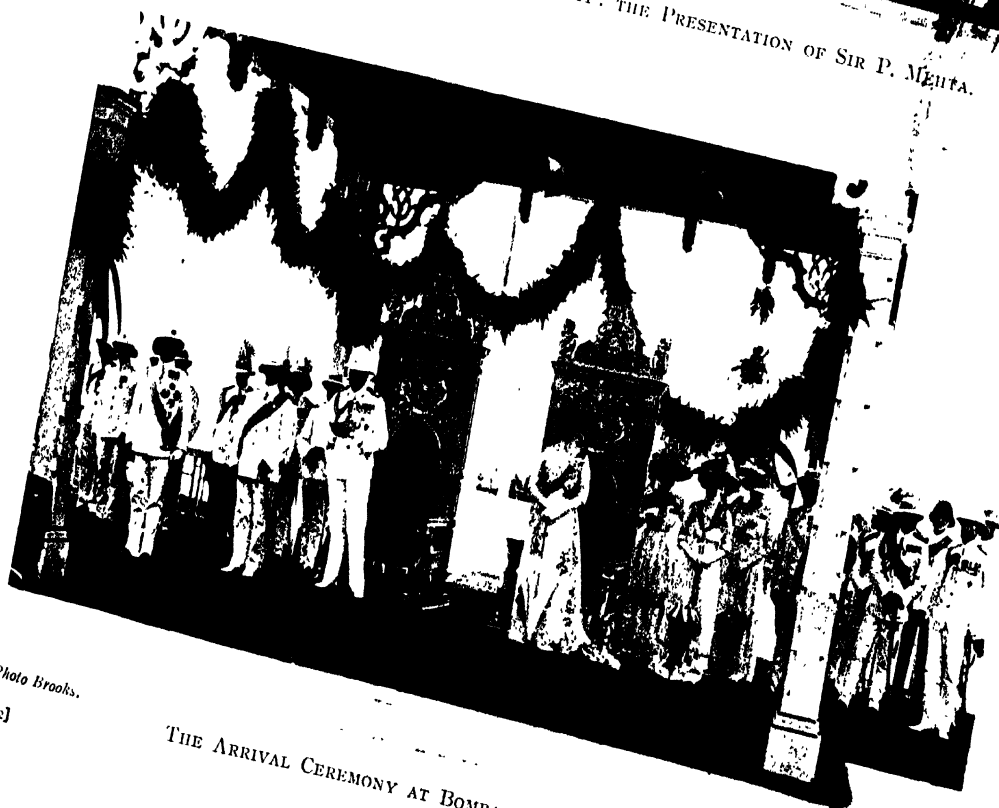
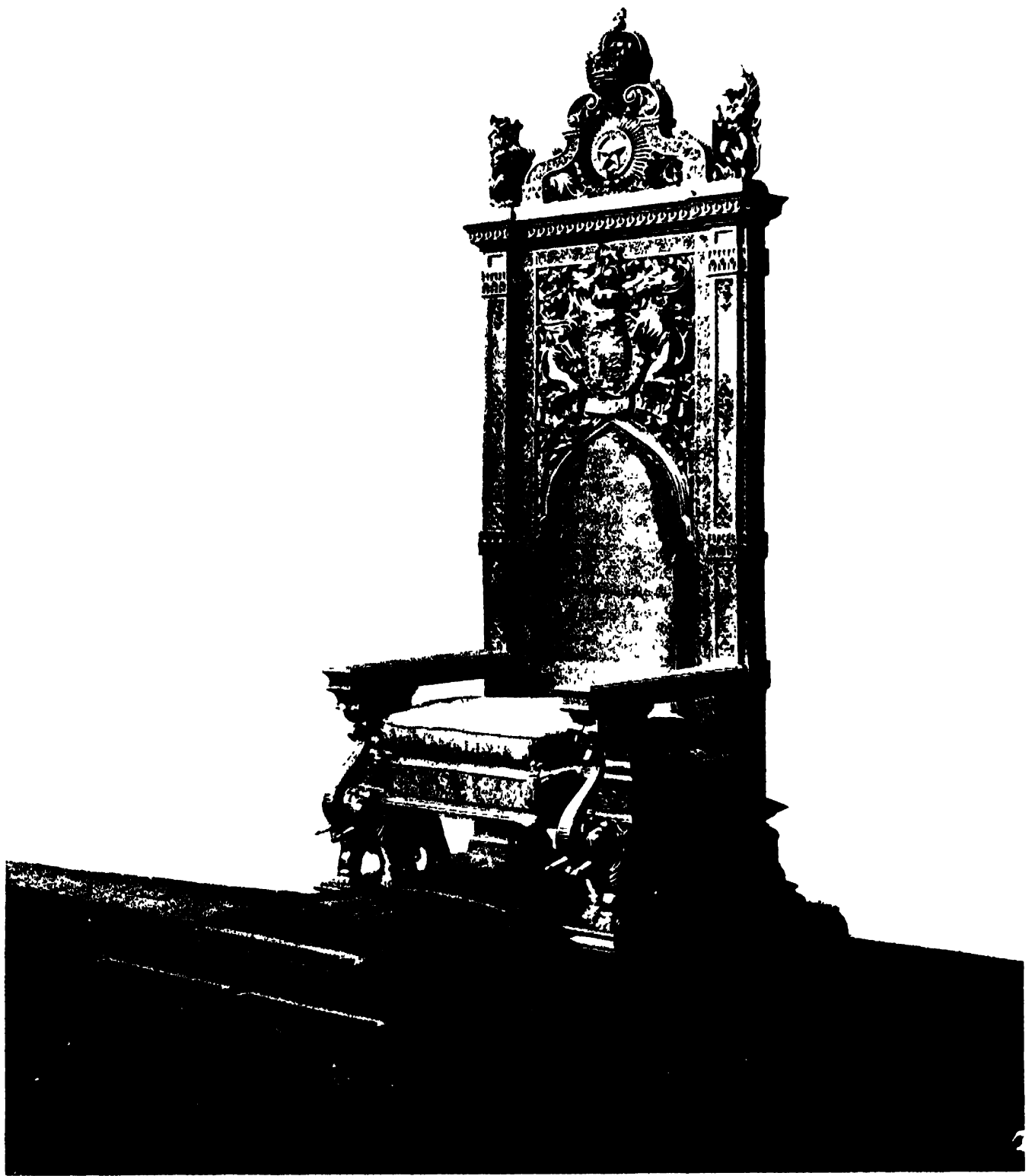


Photo Brooks.

THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT BOMBAY: HIS MAJESTY REPLYING.





ONE OF THE BOMBAY THRONES.

which was in white uniform. Next came the Bombay Light Horse, a small but businesslike-looking Body Guard, and after them, with his staff, the General Officer commanding the Bombay Brigade, Brigadier-General J. C. Swann, who was in command of the whole escort. This officer was followed by a half of the Governor's Body Guard, which had the honour of immediately preceding Their Majesties' carriage. The place of honour on the right of this was held by Captain Lucas, commandant of the Body Guard, and on the left by Major Sir Henry Procter, commanding the Light Horse. Behind these rode Mr. S. M. Edwardes, the Commissioner of Police, and a Deputy Commissioner of Police. Behind the carriage rode the Equerries in Waiting, and then followed successively the remainder of the Body Guard, eight carriages containing the Governor-General, the Governor of Bombay and Lady Clarke, and Their Majesties' suite, and then the 26th Cavalry, formerly the 1st Madras Lancers, who from their old connexion may be said to have represented the senior presidency, Madras, which the King-Emperor, to his great regret, was unable to include in his tour. This regiment also had the honour of acknowledging the King-Emperor as its Colonel in Chief. The procession went at a slow trot and took over an hour and a half to complete the circuit, which was about seven miles long, and was specially mapped out to take Their Majesties through each of the principal sections of the town—first the modern city that had grown up outside the line of the old ramparts on land reclaimed from the sea; then successively through the Hindu and Muhammadan quarters of the densely populated native town; and last through the manufacturing district—for Their Majesties' great desire was to see and to be seen by the greatest numbers possible. The route commenced by way of Apollo Bandar Road, Esplanade Road, and the Crescent, in early days the southernmost limit of the old fort ramparts. It was lined throughout by troops; those near the Apollo Bandar being the Naval Brigade and the Royal Garrison Artillery, and, in the fort, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the Bombay Volunteer Artillery, the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Volunteers, the 105th Mahratta Light Infantry, and the 127th Baluch Light Infantry. In the city were the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the Norfolk Regiment, the 102nd Grenadiers, the 104th Wellesley's Rifles; in the Queen's Road section the 96th Berar Infantry, the 117th Mahrattas, the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Volunteers, and in the Mayo Road the Bombay Volunteer Rifles. The scheme of decoration had been entrusted to Mr. Wittet, who was responsible for the whole. It was excellently carried out, partly at the public expense and partly by private munificence, and was designed to supplement and not obscure the natural beauty of the city. It was, throughout, distinctively Indian in character, and was arranged in sections, each of which was symbolical of some portion of the Bombay community. The decorations in the first part carried on the idea of the pavilion gateway. Lofty, slender minaret-like pillars with golden dome-like

finials, linked together by festoons, and bearing banners with Indian devices, led up to a fine arch in the same style at the corner of the Esplanade Road. The line then went past the statue of King Edward VII, which His Majesty respectfully saluted, the Queen-Empress at the same time reverently bowing her head, and past the new statue of the Emperor himself, in front of the rising Prince of Wales's Museum, inaugurated at the time of the previous visit to India; thence along the Hornby Road, the development of which, with splendid buildings and arcades, has been one of the most remarkable features of modern Bombay. The minarets were continued along this road, and at the farther end, near the quarters that formed the first settlements of the Parsis in the 17th century, terminated in the Parsi arch, a massive and striking structure, emblematic of the community which raised it. The general design was modelled on a restoration of the gateway of the palace of Sargon at Khorsabad, the base being decorated with winged Assyrian lions, the summit by resplendent suns.

The roadside pillars were continued beyond the Parsi arch, but from this point, instead of being Indo-Saracenic, typical of the fusion achieved by British rule, they became square in section and of pure Hindu and Jain designs. They were arranged in pairs, each pillar being surmounted by a conical cupola of characteristic design, gaily decorated in primary colours and bearing bannerettes, while a golden elephant on a projecting bracket served to carry the festoons which hung across the street. The route went on past the garden that now marks the former northern boundary of the fort, and in front of the imposing Victoria railway terminus, once the site of the temple of the goddess Mumbai, whence Bombay takes its name; thence along the straight stretch of Cruickshank Road, where thousands of school-children waving small flags were massed beneath the trees, past the new municipal building, where an arch in the Renaissance style was raised by the Municipality decorated with purple silk and displaying the city arms, with the proud motto *Urbs prima in Indis*. It then passed into another world—the native city—entered through a handsome arch erected by the Southern Mahratta Chiefs; along Kalbadevi Road, where a shrine to the goddess Kali stands, on to Paidhoni—the place of foot-bathing—so called from a small stream which trickled down in days gone by, at which the wayfarer was wont to rest and cool his feet. At this point four pairs of Hindu pillars ended the decorations for the time being, the narrow roads in the native quarter being left to individual enterprise. Their Majesties' progress gained in strength and impressiveness in the crowded native portion of the town, and in no part was the populace more enthusiastic than in the Musalman quarter of the Bhendy Bazar, where four lofty minars supported a canopy of green silk, the colour of the Haj. The cortège then proceeded along Parel Road, the centre of the mill industry, and Sandhurst Road, called after a former governor. At the farthest point, where the route commenced to turn back, eight minarets linked by festoons formed a circle, and similar decorations

were continued from Sandhurst Road up to and beyond the curious but by no means uneffective arch, thirty-seven feet high, made of cotton bales and loose cotton to the value of about twelve thousand pounds, representing Bombay's staple industry. Near this the operatives, who had all been paid as though they were at work, were massed in tens of thousands. Two pillars in the Renaissance style, representing the Goanese colony, ended this section of the decorations. Over Sandhurst Bridge the course turned into the beautiful avenue of Queen's Road, with its overhanging trees, along Church Gate Street, named after the entrance of the fort leading to St. Thomas's Church, now the Cathedral, down Mayo Road, and back to the Bandar. From the Queen's Road no attempt was made at any artificial ornamentation, reliance being placed on the natural beauty of the surroundings; but from the secretariat buildings, where the route lay through a modern European quarter, the Saracenic scheme commenced once more and was continued to the Bandar.

The formal decorations have been described, but they were a mere framework, and it was the teeming mass of humanity, with colours and contrasts unimaginable in the West, that gave the scene its character. Bombay had never made public holiday in quite the same wholehearted way before, or given so real a welcome. Every balcony, roof, and window was bright with joyous faces and brilliant-coloured clothing. Stands had been erected on the open spaces and all along the route where the road was not too narrow, and these were crowded with men of every Indian race, while in the first part of the route there was a fair sprinkling of Europeans. At every side street a densely packed throng pressed forward to the line of march, and the populace of many cities seemed to have poured out into the streets. The people had come for the event of a lifetime, and, in spite of the excessive heat and the weary hours of waiting, a better-tempered and more easily managed crowd could scarcely have been possible. A wonderful effect of overwhelming numbers that rendered the setting barely visible was the result, and it was by this more than anything else that the welcome was distinguished. It was the kind of greeting that Their Majesties most desired, and it was particularly noticeable where, as at many parts of the route, the school-children of all castes and creeds were assembled in their thousands and, as the Imperial carriage passed, started to their feet, waving small flags and filling the air with treble cheers and shouts. Even where, as at many points of the native city, the crowd remained passive, there was something unmistakable about the attitude maintained. The interest, though constantly changing throughout the course, never for one instant flagged, and Their Majesties were evidently much moved by the demonstrations and manifestations of loyalty which had marked their whole progress.

It was almost sunset when Their Majesties reached the Apollo Bandar, where the company in the amphitheatre had awaited their return. A Guard of Honour of the Norfolk Regiment, under the command of Captain F. C. Lodge,

was in attendance, and after this had been inspected Their Majesties bowed to the assembly and returned to the *Medina*, another Imperial salute being fired by the land forts as they stepped on board the barge.

In the evening, the honour of dining with Their Majesties on the deck of the *Medina* was accorded to a large and distinguished company, which included the Governor-General and the Naval Commander in Chief.

At sunset the buildings of the city, which during the day had been only of secondary interest, proudly proclaimed themselves in lines of blazing fire, every single structure of any importance being thus illuminated. Much was done by electricity in the principal streets of the city, but the soft artistic light of hundreds and thousands of the old Indian hand-lighted lamp, which is like nothing else in the world, was still seen everywhere. The shipping in the harbour was similarly outlined, and the scene was one of remarkable beauty and brilliance. Dense throngs moved through the streets till a very late hour, spellbound at the display and still discussing the almost incredible event of the appearance of the Sovereign among them.

Throughout the day Their Majesties were overwhelmed with many thousands of messages of loyal greeting from every part of India and the Empire. The Governor of Madras telegraphed :

“With humble duty on behalf of the Government and people of the Madras Presidency, I beg to respectfully convey to Your Imperial Majesty and Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress a most loyal and hearty welcome to India and an expression of our heartfelt delight that Your Majesties have been graciously pleased once more to visit this portion of the Empire.”

And to this message His Majesty sent reply :

“**T**HE Queen-Empress and I greatly appreciate the hearty welcome which we have received from you on behalf of the Government and the people of the Madras Presidency, and sincerely thank you.”

Another message that was highly esteemed by Their Majesties was from the All India Muslim League, who telegraphed :

“The Council of the ‘All India Muslim League,’ on behalf of the seventy millions of Indian Musalmans, begs respectfully to offer its most heartfelt welcome to His Majesty the King-Emperor and his gracious consort on their landing on the shores of this ancient land. The Council greets in the person of His Imperial Majesty the greatest ruler of the Muslim world, and as such tenders to him its most loyal homage and prays for His Imperial Majesty’s long and glorious reign, blessed with peace and prosperity. His Imperial Majesty’s auspicious and ever-memorable visit is the more gratifying to his Musalman subjects as his arrival in

a vessel bearing the sacred name of *Medina* coincides with the holy festival of the Bakrid, a day of universal rejoicing all over Islam."

The veteran Parsi publicist Mr. Dadabhoy Naorojee sent a message through the Governor :

"I was born in the middle of the reign of His Majesty King George IV. After eighty-six years I have the supreme happiness to hail and welcome most heartily to my dear mother country Your Gracious Majesties the King-Emperor George V and Queen-Empress Mary."

To this he received reply next day from the Emperor's private secretary :

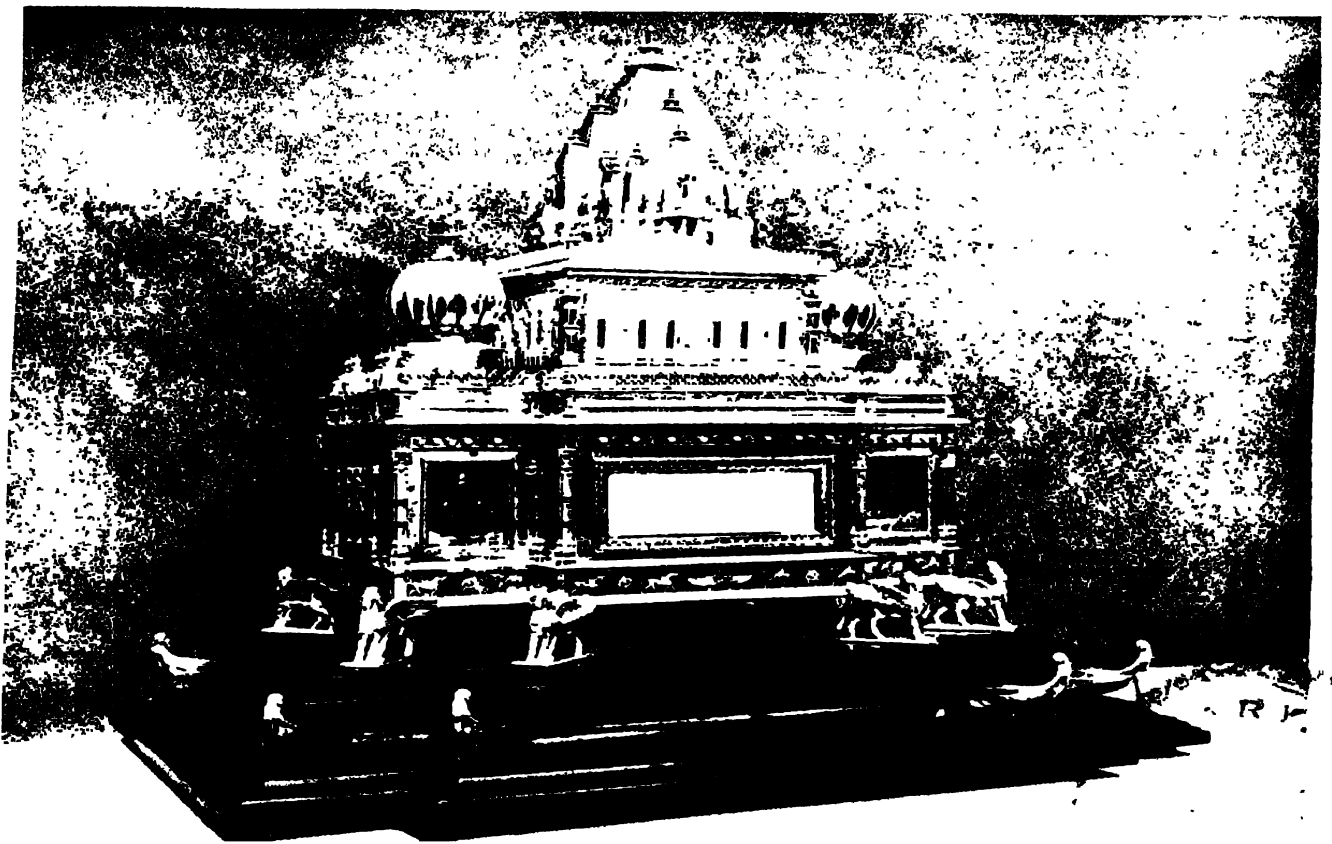
"The King-Emperor and Queen-Empress were much gratified to receive your words of welcome to India contained in your letter of 30th November to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, and I am commanded to express to you Their Imperial Majesties' best thanks for these kind sentiments. Their Imperial Majesties were greatly touched by the hearty reception accorded to them yesterday by the people of Bombay. The King-Emperor and Queen-Empress trust that you are in good health, and that your old age may be blessed with peace and happiness."

Their Majesties passed the night on board the *Medina*, guarded by the great cruisers that formed their escort. The next day was Sunday, to the strict observance of which as a day of rest and religious exercise Their Majesties are always much attached. In the morning they took part in divine service held on board the ship, and at quarter-past one they went ashore to honour the Governor and Lady Clarke at luncheon at Government House. Their Majesties, attended by Major-General Sir Stuart Beatson, proceeded from the Apollo Bandar by motor, the route being along Apollo Bandar Road, Mayo Road, Church Gate Street, Queen's Road, Sandhurst Road, Chowpatty and Walkeshwar Road, all of which were lined by troops of the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Norfolk Regiment, the 96th Infantry, the 105th Mahratta Light Infantry, and the 127th Baluch Light Infantry. They returned to the ship immediately after luncheon, a Guard of Honour of the Royal Garrison Artillery, under Captain H. E. Molesworth, being then on the pier with the band of the Norfolk Regiment ; and they were on shore again before five o'clock to attend the evening service at the Cathedral Church. The Bishop of Bombay preached from the text "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," the subject of the discourse being the duty of England towards India. The hymns that were sung, including Gounod's anthem "Send out Thy light," were specially chosen by His Majesty. Their Majesties arrived at the Cathedral at 5.15 p.m., and after the service drove through Church Gate Street and Esplanade Road back to the Bandar, where they embarked about 6.30, a salute

being fired. In the evening the Governor of Bombay and Lady Clarke had the honour of dining with Their Majesties on the *Medina*, among the others present being the Aga Khan and the Chief Justice of Bombay. The same evening the Governor-General left for Delhi by special train at eleven o'clock, a supplementary train taking some of the members of the Imperial suite to Delhi, to be there in advance of Their Majesties.

On the following day Their Majesties landed at half-past nine in the morning, the Political Secretary to the Government of Bombay being in attendance on the Bandar, and the Guard of Honour, as on the day before, being found by the 127th Baluchis. They proceeded at once by the Mayo and Esplanade Roads, with an escort of the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 26th Cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Logan-Home, and attended by Majors Wigram, Stockley, and Money on horseback, and the remainder of the suite in carriages, to the grounds of the Old Bombay Exhibition, which had been opened only a few days before by Sir George Clarke, and which contained reproductions of some of the features of the old fort and a splendid collection of Indian art and craftsmanship. Here, in a huge amphitheatre formed by removing part of the stadium, twenty-six thousand school-children of every caste and creed, and dressed in all the varied colours of the East, had been assembled to see and greet Their Majesties. It was a great popular festival. The Guard of Honour outside the entrance was furnished by the Bombay Volunteer Rifles, commanded by Captain H. F. Busch, and inside by cadets of the same corps belonging to the various schools of the city. Their Majesties were received with a great outburst of cheering, which completely drowned the strains of the National Anthem played by the band, while the children waved a forest of small blue flags above their heads, producing the effect of wind-swept flower-beds. The Governor, the Chief Justice, who was chairman of the fête, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, vice-chairman, Mr. Cadell, general secretary, Mr. Shahpurji Broacha and Mr. Wardlaw Milne, respectively chairman and general secretary of the Old Bombay Exhibition Committee, received Their Majesties as they alighted and conducted them to a high *dais*, where they were plainly visible to all.

Representative groups of children of the various races and sections of the community then came forward and sang the National Anthem in English, and paraphrases in three languages, Gujarati, Marathi, and Urdu. The English setting was used in the first three cases, but an Indian tune was employed with the Urdu version. After this two hundred and thirty girls from the Gujarati-speaking community gave a *Garbi*, or religious song, accompanied by a rhythmic dance. The girls moved slowly in three concentric circles, swaying, bending, and clapping their hands with curious interlacing movements. In the outer circle were one hundred and twenty girls of the Parsi community, in the next sixty Hindus, and in the innermost both Hindus and Parsis. The song, specially



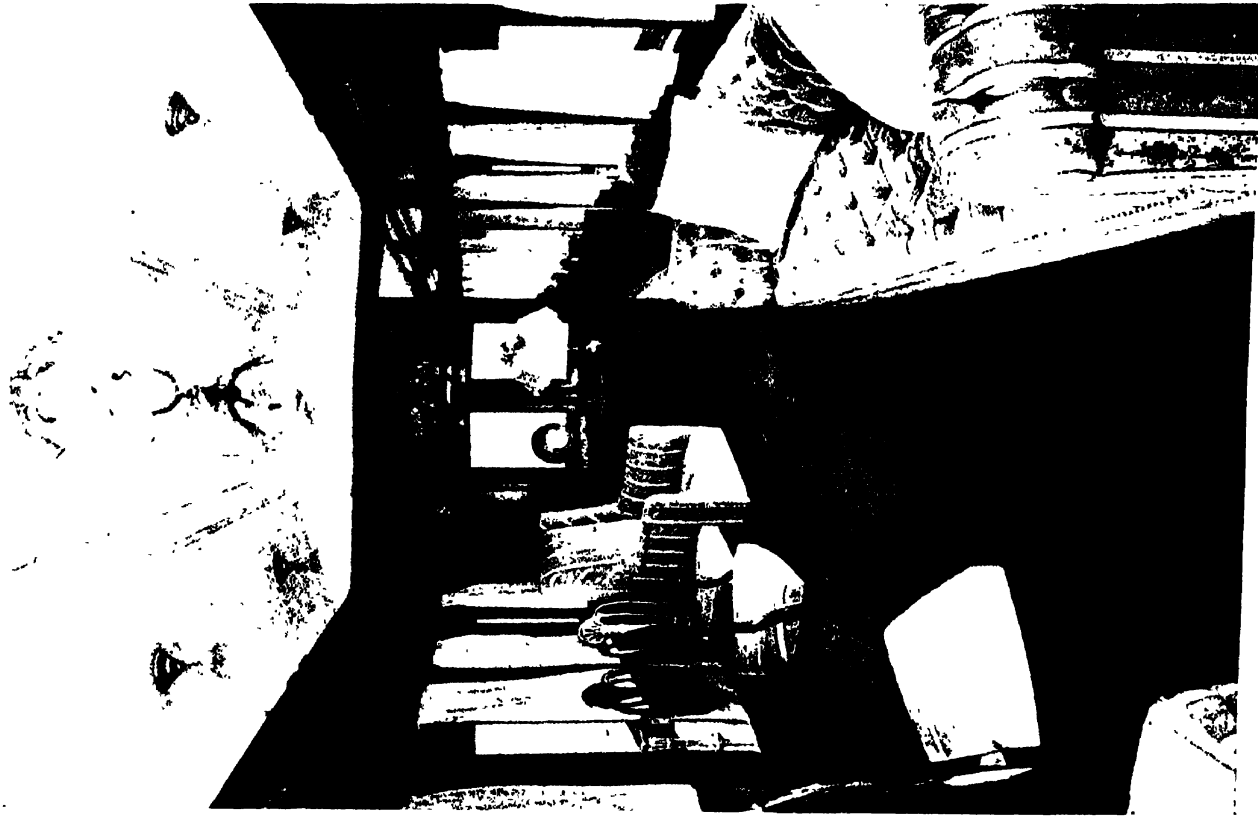
THE BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CASKET.



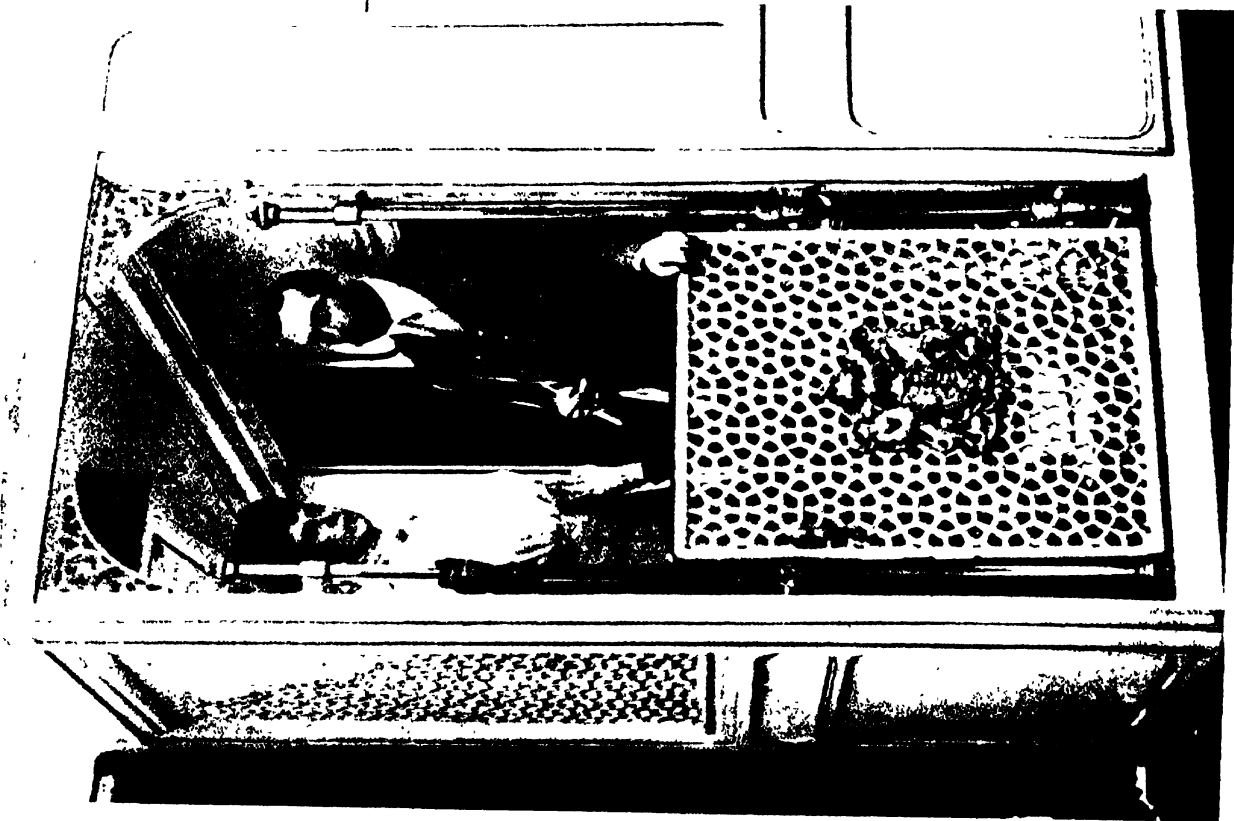
*Photo Bourne & Shepherd.*

THE COTTON ARCH AT BOMBAY.





THE QUEEN-EMPRESS'S SALOON.



THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES ON THE TRAIN.

Photo Brooks.